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FAIR DELIMITATION

T.N. CM places stress on the right of States

NEWS » PAGE 12

EQUALITY IN ARMED FORCES

SC upholds permanent commission for women

NEWS » PAGE 14

TENDER FLOATED

Satellites to monitor Assam floods, borders

BUSINESS » PAGE 15

'PIVOTAL MOMENT'

EPS looks back at the lockdown

Former T.N. CM on the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

'FRIENDLY TWIST'

BJP fields candidate against Assam ally AGP

ASSEMBLY POLLS » PAGE 13

NEARBY

Activist moves HC against clean chit in MUDA case

BENGALURU
Snehamayi Krishna has moved the High Court challenging the special court order in accepting the 'B' report, filed by the Lokayukta police giving a clean chit to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife Parvathi B.M and two others in the MUDA case. » PAGE 8

State to seek legal opinion on action against ACC

BENGALURU
The government will seek legal opinion on initiating criminal proceedings against Adani Group's ACC Ltd. over dues of about ₹850 crore. » PAGE 8

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

SC status only for Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs: top court

Conversion to any other religion will lead to complete loss of Scheduled Caste status, regardless of birth, says Supreme Court Bench as it invokes Clause 3 of Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday held in a judgment that a person professing any religion other than Hinduism, Buddhism, or Sikhism should not be considered a member of a Schedule Caste community.

The court concluded that conversion to any other religion would result in "immediate and complete loss of Scheduled Caste status from the moment of conversion, regardless of birth".

A Bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Manmohan invoked Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, which mandates that "no person who professes a religion different from Hinduism shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste". The Sikh religion was added to the ambit of Clause 3 in 1956. The provision was further amended in 1990 to include persons professing Buddhism.

"This bar under Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 is categorical and absolute," Justice Mishra, who authored the judgment, interpreted the 1950 Order.

The court was hearing an appeal filed by Chinthada Anand, who was born a Hindu-Madiga (Scheduled Caste) but converted to Christianity to become a pastor.

Mr. Anand had filed a case under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989 after he alleged that he had suffered repeated attacks and caste slurs.

The Andhra Pradesh High Court, in a decision in April last year, quashed the criminal proceedings on the ground that Mr. Anand could no longer claim protection under the 1989 Act as he professed Christianity and had been a pastor for about a decade. The High Court was of the view that the caste system was not recognised in Christianity.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Identity question

The top court said that a person professing a religion other than those mentioned in Clause 3 cannot be part of a scheduled caste

- Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, mandates that 'no person who professes a religion different from Hinduism shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste'
- The Sikh religion was added to the ambit of Clause 3 in 1956
- The provision was further amended in 1990 to include persons professing Buddhism
- The top court observed that the bar in Clause 3 is 'categorical and absolute'

Trump discusses Strait of Hormuz in call with Modi

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the first time since the conflict erupted in West Asia and discussed the war that has killed at least six Indians in the region and impacted free movement of energy resources through the Strait of Hormuz.

"Received a call from President Trump and had a useful exchange of views on the situation in West Asia. India supports de-escalation and restoration of peace at the earliest. Ensuring that the Strait of Hormuz remains open, secure and accessible is essential for the whole world," Mr. Modi said in a post on X on Tuesday.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 12

"Ensuring that the Strait of Hormuz remains open, secure and accessible is essential for the whole world. We [PM and Mr. Trump] agreed to stay in touch regarding efforts towards peace and stability

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

Strikes continue in West Asia amid mixed signals

Associated Press
DUBAI

A day after U.S. President Donald Trump delayed his self-imposed deadline for Iran to "reopen" the Strait of Hormuz, airstrikes battered the Islamic Republic while Tehran targeted Israel's Tel Aviv and sites across West Asia on Tuesday.

With thousands more U.S. Marines on their way to the Gulf, both sides firing barrages in the region, and Iran denying any negotiations taking place, the war's tempo remained high.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 16
EDITORIAL
» PAGE 10

Emergency drill

Action ready: Personnel from the Jammu and Kashmir Police's Mountain Rescue Team and National Disaster Response Force take part in a training programme in Samba district on Tuesday. The exercise focuses on preparedness for rescue efforts in hilly terrain if and when needed. PTI

Event cancelled after protocol violation row

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Following a row over protocol violation, the Department of Higher Education on Tuesday cancelled the three-day conference on Hindutva ideologue Deendayal Upadhyay on the premises of the State-owned KSOU in Mysuru. The event was scheduled to start from Wednesday.

The Legislative Council on Monday had seen a debate on protocol violation, the Department being kept in the dark about the event even though university logo was used in the invite.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 8

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RCB acquired by consortium for ₹16,660 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Days ahead of the opening of IPL 2026 season, the United Spirits Limited has announced that it has entered into agreements for the sale of the 100% equity stake held in its wholly owned subsidiary Royal Challengers Sports Private Limited – which owns and operates Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

It has been sold to a consortium comprising Aditya Birla Group, The Times of India Group, Bolt Ventures, and Blackstone's perpetual private equity strategy, BXPE for a total consideration of ₹16,660 crore.

DETAILED REPORT ON
» PAGE 17

Elaborate security arrangements in place for RCB matches

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Elaborate security arrangements have been made to ensure law and order during the upcoming Indian Premier League 2026 matches scheduled on March 28 and April 5 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, said Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh.

The police have issued a public advisory with the tagline "Cheer responsibly, celebrate responsibly".

Explaining the arrangements at a press conference on Tuesday, Mr. Singh said that to ease traffic congestion and promote public transport, authorities have introduced a QR code-based e-ticketing system. The ticket includes a metro pass, allowing spectators to commute conveniently across the city.

This initiative has been launched in coordination with the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB).

Commuters can use metro services to reach the stadium via Cubbon Park and M.G. Road metro stations. Additional metro services have been deployed, and parking facilities have been arranged at metro entry points to support a smooth transit.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

Entry to the stadium will be from Queen's Road through 6-m-wide gates. K. MURALI KUMAR

I'm trying to win every tournament I play and learn as much as I can

The 18-year-old Indian squash star aims to crack the top-10 as early as possible; she hopes to win gold at the Asian Games and take a decisive step towards LA 2028

INTERVIEW

Anahat Singh

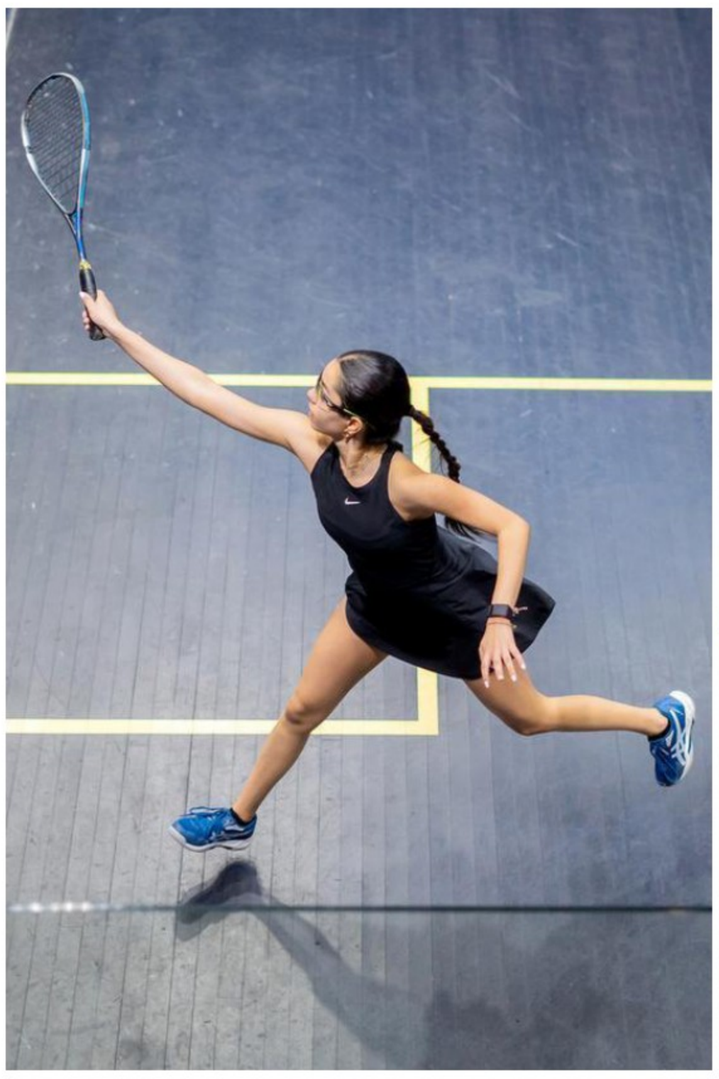
K. Keerthivasan

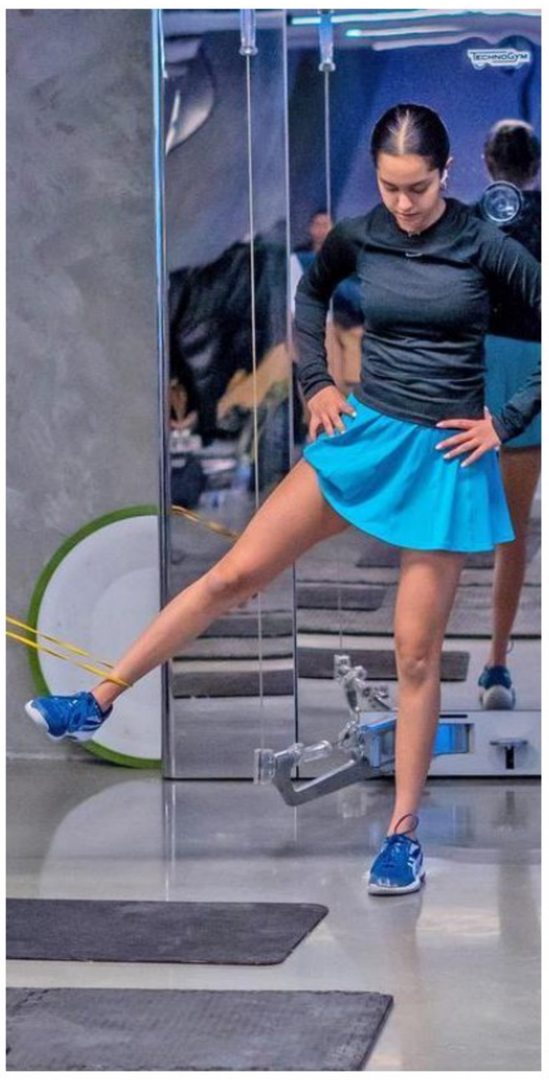
Anahat Singh set the squash stage on fire in Washington last month. Competing at the Squash on Fire Open, the teenager produced a simmering exhibition of skill and composure against some of the world's finest players. By clinching her maiden PSA World Tour Bronze title, Anahat sky-rocketed into the world's top-20, becoming the youngest Asian to achieve the feat in recent times.

What stood out was not only the results but also her approach – especially in the final against Georgina Kennedy. An explosive player with some of the quickest movements on court, Kennedy is a formidable presence on the Tour. Yet, Anahat matched her pace with poise, playing the long rallies with calmness and not rushing to finish points. To defeat the top-seeded 28-year-old from England in straight games (12-10, 11-5, 11-7) was a statement in no uncertain terms.

At 18, Anahat, who clinched the JSW Indian Open women's title in Mumbai last week, is aware that sterner tests lie ahead. Among them is the long road to the 2028 Summer Olympics, where squash will make its debut. She is determined to reach that stage.

In this interview, she speaks about her goals for the World Junior Squash Championships and British Open later this year, not being able to play the senior World Championships, and her burning desire to win the women's singles gold medal at the Asian Games and take a decisive step towards Los Angeles 2028. Excerpts:





This season you did really well, reaching the world's top-20. You became the youngest Asian to do so in recent times by winning your first PSA World Tour bronze title in the Squash On Fire Open. How does it feel?

Yeah, I was, of course, really, really happy going into the tournament. No one really expected me to win. Even now, if I think about it, it's like, I still can't believe it happened. And yeah, it's just something that was unexpected. And I didn't really think about my rankings because I didn't calculate it for the fact that I was going to win the tournament. So I thought that I'd only go a few places up and maybe go to like World Ranking 23 or 24. When I woke up and I saw posts [on social media] saying that I was in the top-20, I was really happy.

What kind of perspective did your first big crown bring to your game?

I think mainly it's about the fact that I know that I can beat the top players. Before, I'd have maybe some close games with them but I'd never be able to convert and win the match. Playing a tournament like this and being able to win three really good back-to-back matches... those were matches that weren't supposed to go my way. Just winning a tournament like that made me believe that it's possible for upsets like this to happen. And that if I'm playing a good game and if I believe in the fact that I can win the tournament, it's definitely possible. I'm trying to win every tournament that I play and trying to learn as much as I can through it, whether it's a win or a loss.

If you look at the previous season (2024-25), you had won nine PSA titles. This season, too, has been good for you as you managed to win your first major PSA World Bronze World Tour title in Washington. Will you opt to play in more bigger events such as Platinum, Gold in the coming months?

I think, yeah, that will be my first step. I've lost in the pre-quarters and a five-setter (to World No. 7 Satomi Watanabe of Japan in the round-of-16 in the Tournament of Champions in January 2026 and to Tinne Gilis in the Windy City Open in February) in both my last Platinum events. Taking it one step at a time and reaching the quarters and doing better and better. That's the only way out because there's no other way out. Playing the bigger events and getting a chance to reach the later rounds, maybe the quarters, semis.

You have a bunch of elite coaches in the form of India's Saurav Ghosal (former World No. 10), France's Gregory Gaultier (former World No. 1) and Italy's Stephane Galifi (former World No. 5). How much part have they played in improving your skillsets?

I train with Galifi and Gaultier. They both are my main coaches. And then there's Saurav, who's more of my mentor outside the court, where he helps me with what I should do for training and tournaments. If I didn't have the team that I have now, I don't think I would be where I am now. And getting to be with three of them – I don't think I could get a better team than this. They've all been top players in their time. I am getting to be around them and learning so much from them because they understand exactly what it's like to be at this level – all the challenges, all the ups and downs. Them being my coaches is something that I'm really, really grateful for.

My game has only gone up since I've started working with them and hopefully, I can keep working like that. Having three of them on my side, even if I don't believe I can win, the three of them, no matter who I'm playing against, even if it's a World No. 1 or World No. 2, they really believe that I can win. I also have that certain amount of confidence and belief that I can do really well. And I mean, that's really shown and paid off in the last couple of months.

Apart from the Asian Games which is a major qualifying tournament for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, there is the World Championships in Giza, Egypt, from May 8 to 16. What are your thoughts on playing in the Worlds?

I'm not playing that because I have my Std. XII Board exams. I mean, definitely, it is something that I knew I wasn't going to play as soon as my exam schedule came out.

There are so many other events that happen in the year after the Worlds. There's the British Open that's happening from May 30 to June 7. My main aim for this year is to win the World Juniors, which is happening in Canada from July 20 to 31. As of now, mainly these are the two events in the next couple of months.

Asian Games is the biggest event this year. In the last edition of the Games, you won women's team bronze, and mixed doubles bronze (with Abhay Singh). This time, the singles winner will qualify for the 2028 Olympics...

I'm really, really looking forward to it. The last time that happened, we did really well as a team. And yeah, it was my first time playing and getting two medals was really amazing. But I think this time it's also a qualifying tournament for the Los Angeles Olympics – whoever wins the singles event qualifies automatically for the quadrennial event in 2028. Going into the Asian Games this time is going to be a lot different than any other tournament because if I win this event, I will have an automatic selection for the Olympics, which is everyone's dream. I'm going to push as much as I can and train as hard as I possibly can to try to get gold.

How do you prioritise your tournaments leading up to the Olympics?

I think initially it was a lot harder because I wasn't really getting into all the big tournaments. It was hard to pick and select which ones I'm getting into. Now that my ranking has gone up, I can play every single tournament now. It's a lot easier to pick because you just end up playing in 11 to 15 PSA tournaments in a year. You end up playing all of the big events like the Platinum and Gold events. It's up to you to pick as to where you think you're going to go and do well.

Breaking into the top-20 is done. What is your next objective?

Of course, the next step would be to get into the world's top-10. As you go up in the rankings, it gets harder to climb even one spot up. It's going to be quite hard. But yeah, I think if I do well in the upcoming tournaments, I can speed up my ranking process and climb higher as quickly as possible.

Do you play any other sport to unwind. What are your hobbies?

It's tough to get time between squash and school. Whenever I get time off from both, I like to paint. Even my dad really likes it. He's really good at it as well. I've been doing it since my childhood. It's something that I really enjoy doing as well. My most recent one (painting) was, basically about my identity. I made a mix of squash with pictures of Delhi.

‘State past its demographic peak, job quality is key’

The median age for Karnataka, as per report, is 32; the highest is recorded by Kerala at 39

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has entered a state of demographic transition where a large working-age population will no longer be enough to drive economic growth, and future gains will depend on how productively people are employed, the ‘State of Working India 2026’ report said.

The report by Azim Premji University was released here on Tuesday. It examines how India’s school-to-work transition has evolved over the last 40 years.

The report places Karnataka among relatively ‘older’ Indian States, alongside Kerala and Tamil Nadu, where the share of the working-age population is no longer rising significantly.
GETTY IMAGES

Highlights

- India’s demographic dividend nearing peak; may decline after 2030
- Male enrolment in higher education declining
- Student numbers rising faster than teacher hiring
- ITIs expanded, but quality and job links weak
- High unemployment among graduates
- Graduate job growth lagging behind supply
- Migration rising as response to job gaps

Among ‘older’ States

The report places Karnataka among relatively “older” Indian States, alongside Kerala and Tamil Nadu, where the share of the working-age population is no longer rising significantly. In economic terms, this means that the boost to growth that comes from a rising working-age population, the demographic dividend, has largely played out.

According to the report, India is still young (with more young people entering the workforce currently), with a median age of 28, and accounts for a significant share of the world’s youth population. However, this window is narrowing quickly. The number of young people has already begun to decline, it said. The report highlights that the demographic dividend only translates into economic growth if there are enough jobs for people to take up. Without job creation, a large working-age population can just as easily become a burden.

Sharp contrasts

The State-level picture shows sharp contrasts. While southern and western States such as Karnataka are ageing faster and must now depend on productivity gains, northern States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar still have a growing youth population. The median age for Karnataka, as per the report, is 32. The highest is recorded by Kerala at 39, while Bihar has the lowest median age of 22.

The report finds that younger States are not necessarily doing better at employing their youth. When it comes to overall employment, there is little difference between younger and older States. However, older and more industrialised States, including Karnataka, perform better in generating regular salaried jobs, which are typically more stable and better paid than casual or self-employment.

The link between economic growth and job quality is crucial here, the report said. States such as Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, which have seen relatively stronger economic growth, also show a clearer rise in salaried employment among young people. In contrast, poorer States have struggled to convert growth into such jobs at the same pace.

At the national level, the report traces how young Indians have moved between education and work over the past 40 years. Within education, enrollment among teenagers (15-19 years) has risen sharply since the 1980s, with girls nearly closing the gap with boys. More young people are staying in school longer, and more are entering higher education than before, the report said.

Employment story

But the employment story is more uneven. Between 2004-05 and 2017-18, rising education levels meant fewer young people were working, as they stayed in school or college longer. Since 2017-18, however, this trend has reversed. Employment among youth has increased but partly because some are leaving education earlier.

This shift is particularly visible among young men. Data shows a noticeable decline in the share of boys aged 15-19 in education in recent years, including in secondary and higher secondary levels. This decline began around the pandemic period and has not fully reversed, the report notes.

Young women

Among young women, the trend is different. The recent rise in employment has come mainly from fewer women remaining outside both education and work, rather than from dropping out of education. However, female workforce participation remains a major concern. A large share of women in their early 20s are still neither studying nor employed, the report mentioned, pointing to persistent structural and social barriers.

‘We are not overproducing graduates, we are underproducing good jobs

Associate professor of Economics at Azim Premji University, Rosa Abraham, says earnings growth among newer cohorts of young workers has slowed down over generations

INTERVIEW

Rosa Abraham

Rishita Khanna

India is creating more graduates, but not enough jobs – leaving a growing number of young people educated and unemployed. If we compare young workers across generations and track their lifetime earnings, it suggests that the growth of earnings has slowed down for more recent generations, said Rosa Abraham, associate professor of Economics, Azim Premji University, and lead author of the ‘State of Working India 2026’ report, in an interview with *The Hindu*.

Excerpts:

India, as per the report, is nearing the peak of its demographic dividend. What are the top three risks that could turn this into a demographic burden, especially for fast-growing States like Karnataka?

Firstly, an inability to create good jobs for an increasingly educated and aspirational young population, secondly, getting old before we get rich – i.e., we do not create the social security systems that can sustain an increasingly elderly population, and lastly, inadequate attention to migration dynamics. If States do not actively coordinate to make migration ‘work’ for them – facilitating worker movements from young and less developed States to older and more economically developed States – then we risk exacerbating distress and precarious migration.

With 40% unemployment among young graduates (15-25 years), are we overproducing degrees that the economy doesn’t need? The report also says earnings are stagnating. Does this mean young people today are actually worse off than the previous generation despite more education?

We are not producing enough jobs for the number of educated workers we have. If we compare with countries at similar levels of development, India’s tertiary enrolment rates are on a par. So, in that sense, no, we are not ‘overproducing’ graduates. We are underproducing good jobs. If we compare young workers across generations and track their lifetime earnings, it does suggest that earnings growth has slowed down for more recent cohorts or generations.

Rosa Abraham.

Is Karnataka better positioned than northern States, or are we also seeing early signs of a slowdown in absorbing youth into jobs?

Historically, Karnataka has done better in creating salaried employment for its youth population. On the positive side, the share of youth in the State is starting to decline, and in that mechanical sense, the job creation challenge is perhaps not as daunting as it would be for States like Bihar or Uttar Pradesh with a larger population of youth entering the workforce. In general, Karnataka’s growth has been accompanied by employment creation. Nevertheless, even in Karnataka, we see graduate youth unemployment rates hovering around 20%. It is still on the lower side, but the State is relatively better.

As per the report, women’s workforce participation has increased, but largely in self-employment and agriculture. Is this empowerment or disguised distress?

Broad trends for women point towards it being ‘distress.’ Self-employment earnings for women have slowed down, for instance. There are multiple members in the same household working in agricultural self-employment. This is unusual and is not necessarily accompanied by an increase in household income, pointing towards distress. The gender wage gap convergence has come both due to a steady increase since 2017 in women’s entry-level earnings but also due to a steady fall in young men’s entry-level earnings. Both contribute.

Would you say India, and even States like Karnataka, are facing a quality of employment crisis rather than just a quantity issue?

Yes, it is both a quality and quantity problem. As co-author Amit Basole indicates, skills don’t create jobs; jobs create skills. So, if the demand for jobs were present, then the right kinds of education or training and skilled workforce would also manifest with time. But yes, currently, our training and education has set up a workforce that is not employable as per many parameters. But at the same time, industry does not have the resources, motivation or incentive in on-the-job training for these workers to make them employable.

Towing to resume in city soon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The vehicle towing drive will soon resume in the city to ease traffic congestion. The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP), in coordination with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), is set to relaunch the vehicle towing drive across the city shortly to tackle traffic congestion and illegal parking.

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said that all five traffic divisions are preparing to roll out the drive, with necessary towing vehicles being arranged. “Permission has been granted, and the drive will begin soon,” he said. Officials noted that towing operations had previously been suspended after public outrage over alleged misconduct by towing personnel. However, in the absence of enforcement, motorists began parking vehicles haphazardly, further worsening congestion. Authorities also observed that several old and unused vehicles were being left parked on roads for extended periods, adding to the problem. Senior officials had earlier indicated that towing operations would resume, and following these directions, the system is now being reintroduced.

Dash cams and body worn cameras have been installed on towing vehicles.

Towing vehicles will be deployed across five traffic divisions. Each team will include a police inspector, a constable, and GBA staff to assist in the operation.

To ensure transparency, dash cams and body worn cameras have been installed on towing vehicles and personnel to help prevent misconduct.

JICA funds third phase of Namma Metro

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has signed a loan agreement with the Union government to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of 1,02,480 million Japanese Yen for the Bengaluru Metro Rail Project Phase 3 (I).

The agreement was signed in New Delhi between Alok Tiwari, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Takeuchi Takuro, Chief Representative of JICA India Office, according to a release by JICA. It seeks to address rising traffic demand by expanding the mass rapid transit network. It is expected to ease congestion, reduce vehicular pollution, and contribute to improved urban living conditions while supporting economic growth.

The project is set to be completed by January 2032, with invitations for consulting services expected to be issued in April 2026. The tender announcement for the initial procurement package for civil works for the viaduct portion is set for May 2026.

High Court issues notice on PIL over hardships caused to residents by Rajajinagar private school

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday ordered the issue of a notice to the State government on a PIL petition which had complained about disturbances caused to people residing in the localities around the National Public School situated in Rajajinagar 5th block due to use of loudspeakers with high volume in the school and parking of school buses in residential areas.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the order on the petition filed by Rajajinagar 5th Block Residents’ Welfare Association, Benglauru.

The petition noted that the school authorities failed to address the problems faced by the residents, even though the association brought to the notice of the principal of the school, in 2023, details about the hardships caused due to the sound emitted by the loudspeakers installed on the school premises and the parking of school buses in residential areas for long hours.

The petitioner has also claimed that the school has constructed a new building, allegedly in the buffer area of a stormwater drain sans any approval.

In addition, the association has complained that the police and the civic authorities have failed to take necessary action despite various representations submitted.

Garbage collection resumes in city; contractors accuse BSWML of using threats, ignoring dues

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after garbage collection was halted in more than 50 wards across the city, services resumed on Tuesday, with workers saying there were no disruptions and that operations would continue as usual from Wednesday, including in areas that missed collection on Tuesday. The disruption on Monday was triggered by delayed salary payments and objections to a new rule on waste segregation.

Sanitation workers say that while households are being asked to segregate waste into three categories, drivers and collection workers are spending hours sorting out mixed waste.

Segregation

Sanitation workers and contractors allege that while households are being asked to segregate waste into three categories, drivers and collection workers are spending hours sorting out mixed waste, exposing themselves to hazardous materials.

S.N. Balasubramanian, president of the Garbage Contractors’ Association, told *The Hindu* that the association had written to the BSWML on Tuesday reiterating that collection workers cannot be tasked with segregating waste. “The BSWML has directed our auto drivers and loaders to ensure waste segregation, which is not feasible,” he said, questioning whether such instructions could violate the Manual Scavengers Act.

On Monday, FIRs were registered against garbage contractors at three city police stations under the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) for disrupting collection services leading to garbage accumulation, based on complaints by GBA officials. Contractors, however, alleged that the BSWML has been resorting to such punitive measures instead of addressing their concerns.

Officials from the BSWML acknowledged delays in clearing payments and said the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner has directed that salaries for the past four months be released. However, they maintained that the order on segregation at source would not be rolled back.

BSWML CEO Karee Gowda was unavailable for comment. Officials said a meeting would be convened once Mr. Gowda, who is currently on election duty in West Bengal, returns to the city.

Congress slammed

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition R. Ashok hit out at the Congress government over the garbage collection disruption in Bengaluru, calling it a failure of basic civic administration.

He said that sanitation workers had not been paid for months and contractors were being booked instead of being heard, which had led to the situation. He questioned how a government that speaks of guarantees had failed to ensure salaries for those handling waste collection.

Mr. Ashok alleged a lack of coordination between agencies, saying this had resulted in garbage piling up in parts of the city.

‘Daily over 7,300 tonnes of solid waste are generated in ULBs’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Excluding the Greater Bengaluru Authority area, about 7,304 tonnes of solid waste is generated across 325 urban local bodies in the State, of which around 6,083 tonnes is being processed, Municipal Administration Minister Rahim Khan informed the Legislative Council on Tuesday. Replying to BJP member D.S. Arun, the Minister said steps would be taken to ensure full processing of waste. He pointed out that a circular mandating strict adherence to scientific waste management practices would be issued shortly.

Mr. Khan said 219 urban local bodies already have solid waste processing units in place. However, some lack basic infrastructure required for effective waste management. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), detailed project reports have been prepared and works are under way to create the necessary facilities.

Municipal Administration Minister Rahim Khan in the Legislative Council on Tuesday.

No land available

Of the 325 urban local bodies, 38 do not have land available for waste processing. In such cases, cluster-based models are being adopted, he said. Delays in establishing processing units are also due to public opposition and litigation, he pointed out..

The Minister said efforts are being made to create awareness on segregation of waste at source, and provisions exist to impose penalties on those who fail to comply.

Mafia

Raising the issue, Mr. Arun alleged that waste disposal in the State was in the grip of a “mafia”, with a strong lobby controlling operations. He said scientific handling of e-waste and biomedical waste was inadequate and that the problem extended to rural areas as well.

He called for better coordination among departments such as rural development and urban development to address the issue comprehensively.

How BioPharma SHAKTI can transform biologics with non-animal models

A class of drugs called biologics is becoming more popular worldwide against many chronic diseases; on the flip side, animal models not do reliably predict their safety and efficacy, prompting scientists to shift to bioengineered, human-relevant systems such as organoids, organ-on-a-chip, and 3D bioprinting

Mohit Nikalje
HYDERABAD

In 2006, London woke up to a tragedy. Six healthy men involved in a phase I clinical trial of theralizumab, a monoclonal antibody (mAb) designed to treat rheumatoid arthritis, developed multiple organ failure. The antibody triggered an intense immune reaction that the researchers did not observe in rhesus monkeys in preclinical tests because their immune cells responded differently from human immune cells.

The Northwick Park Tragedy, as it was called, became a textbook example of why animals cannot be used as proxies to test human drugs. Similarly, in 2022, the mAb semorinemab failed to work in 457 patients with Alzheimer's disease during phase II trials despite demonstrating effectiveness in a preclinical mouse model.

These mAbs, vaccines, and insulin all belong to a growing class of drugs called biologics – large, complex molecules produced by living cells. Their use is rising worldwide as they treat many chronic diseases.

Recognising their importance, the 2026 Union Budget of India announced the Biopharma SHAKTI strategy to boost domestic production of biologics and their generic counterparts, biosimilars.

However, animal models may not reliably predict the safety and efficacy of biologics. This has prompted a shift towards bioengineered, human-relevant systems such as organoids, organ-on-a-chip, and 3D bioprinting, which are derived from human cells and thus replicate human biology more faithfully.

Even if non-animal methodologies are promising models, they are not as accessible as animal systems. GETTY IMAGES

Human-relevant models

These models are collected under the term non-animal methodologies (NAMs) and are used worldwide to reduce the use of experiments in animals. For example, last year, the U.K. published a roadmap to phase out animal experiments and promote the adoption of NAMs.

Thanks to the New Drugs and Clinical Trials (Amendment) Rules 2023, India is also promoting the use of NAMs in the development of novel drugs. However, their potential remains untapped in the domain of biologics and biosimilars.

"Biologics are highly specific," University of Illinois adjunct professor Sarfaraz Niazi said. "They bind to particular receptors in the human body. But those receptors are sometimes missing or function differently in animals, which makes animal testing less predictive."

One 2024 study in *Cell* reported a breast cancer-on-chip model to study the effectiveness of CAR T-cell therapy, a leading biologic therapy, against solid tumours.

While CAR T-cell therapy has proven effective against blood cancers, solid tumours like breast cancers pose additional challenges like abnormal blood vessel formation and difficulties for T-cells to find and attack the cancerous cells.

The breast cancer-on-chip model recreated this tumour environment in the lab, and the authors of the 2024 study perfused T-cells through it to observe whether they could enter the tumour and mount an immune attack, assessing both treatment benefit and potential safety risks without animals.

These models can also reduce costs and shorten development timelines, making them attractive to pharmaceutical companies. A 2019 analysis in *Drug Discovery Today* estimated that organ-on-chip technologies could lower overall drug development costs by 10-26%. They also found the time required for lead optimisation, when scientists identify a promising drug candidate from a pool of molecules, could drop by 19%.

Future of biologics

Even if NAMs are promising models, they are not as accessible as animal systems. More than 90 academic labs in India are working on these models. However, the innovation here is not translating into industry use. "Translating NAMs into industry-ready assays requires a clear context of use, robust documentation, and standardised, reproducible protocols, even before qualification. While institutions support entrepreneurship, sustained commercialisation needs stronger, modern policy support," Kasturi Mahadik, Chief Manager at the Centre for Predictive Human Model Systems (CPHMS), AIC-CCMB, said. (Note: the author works at CPHMS.)

The development of NAMs also requires sustained funding and infrastructure. With an outlay of ₹10,000 crore, Biopharma SHAKTI can provide the necessary backing.

Biopharma SHAKTI also supports biosimilars – generic versions of biologics reverse-engineered once the original product goes off patent. However, regulatory adjustments are involved here, which require greater attention from the government

"I think the best use of these funds would be not to develop a single product but to build systems that enable many companies to do so," Dr. Niazi added.

"The culture of entrepreneurship is also a challenge in India," Narendra Chirmule, CEO of SymphonyTech Biologics, said. "Although there is an increase in the number of start-ups and MSMEs in biologics (supported by DBT, ICMR, and other grants), exponentially greater investment, as well as support for the development of supply chain materials, is needed to create real impact. Additionally, investors are not well versed in the risks and potentials of the biologics industry".

Regulatory, market challenges

Another area supported by Biopharma SHAKTI is biosimilars, generic versions of biologics that are reverse-engineered once the original product goes off patent. However, there are additional financial risks and regulatory adjustments involved, which require greater attention from the government. One challenge is patent evergreening, which allows the exclusive rights of an original biologic to be extended. For example, although the intravenous form of the cancer drug trastuzumab was approved in 2000, the manufacturer later introduced a subcutaneous formulation with a separate patent. Because of this prolonged market exclusivity, cheaper biosimilar versions were not available until 2018.

Before being commercialised, biosimilars also have to receive a nod from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), India's apex regulatory body. These approvals are based on set guidelines; however, the updated guidelines are still in draft form.

"While India has been updating its biosimilars guidelines to accommodate NAMs, implementation has been slow, and regulatory confidence in independently validated NAM models is still evolving. If accelerated, this would expedite the adoption of NAMs in the biologics and biosimilars field, helping Biopharma SHAKTI achieve its goals," says Dr. Mahadik.

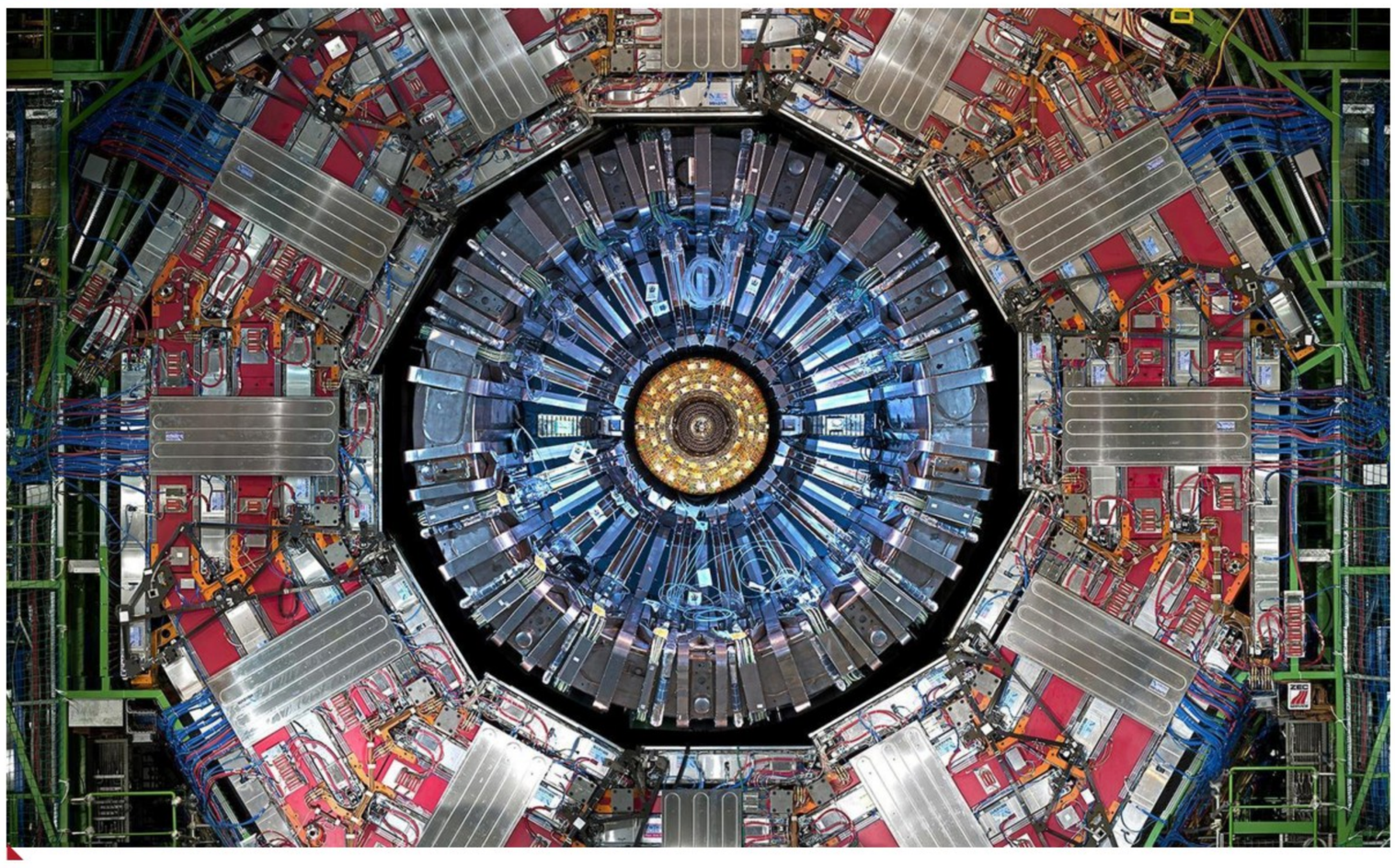
Therefore, aligning with industry realities and securing regulatory clarity for their use will make biosimilars and biologics manufacturing in India faster, more predictive, and cost-efficient, thus realising the vision set by Biopharma SHAKTI.

(Mohit Nikalje is a science communicator at the Centre for Predictive Human Model Systems, Hyderabad. mohitnikalje1234@gmail.com)

THE GIST

- Monoclonal antibodies, vaccines, and insulin all belong to the growing class of biologics — large, complex molecules produced by living cells
- Recognising their importance, the 2026 Union Budget of India announced the Biopharma SHAKTI strategy to boost domestic production of biologics and their generic counterparts, biosimilars
- Thanks to the New Drugs and Clinical Trials (Amendment) Rules 2023, India is also promoting the use of non-animal methodologies in the development of novel drugs. However, their potential remains untapped in the domain of biologics and biosimilars

BIG SHOT



Quantum discovery: A side-on view of the world's largest superconducting solenoid magnet at the CMS detector on the Large Hadron Collider, near Geneva. The Collider has discovered a new particle, its 80th so far, that has been named 'Xi-cc-plus'. Scientists hope the particle, which is similar to a proton but four times heavier, will reveal more about the strange behaviour of quantum mechanics. CERN

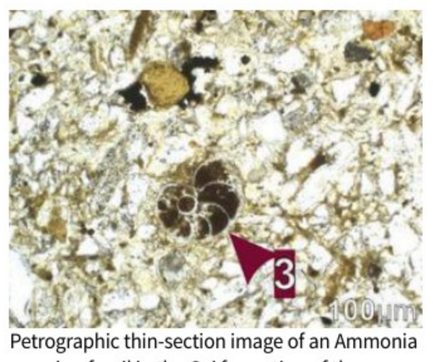
WHAT IS IT?

Dwarka Basin: an ancient haven

In February, researchers from IIT-Bombay, the Indian Statistical Institute, and IISER-Kolkata reported that fossil beds in the Dwarka Basin date back to the early Miocene epoch. They identified 42 species of snails, including four new to science, that indicated the area was once warm and rich in nutrients. The findings are expected to help scientists better understand the ancient marine environments and biodiversity of western India.

The Dwarka Basin is a significant geological and archaeological region located off the coast of Gujarat. It mainly refers to a sedimentary basin in the Kathiawar Peninsula that contains layers of marine rocks and fossils. Geologists are interested in the Basin to understand the earth's history over millions of years. The Basin features rock layers such as the Gaj and Dwarka formations dating back to the Miocene epoch (23 million to 5.3 million years ago). These layers hold a wealth of marine fossils, including ancient snails and foraminifera. Energy companies are also exploring the basin for potential signs of oil and gas deposits beneath the volcanic rock.

The area's popularity surged in the 1980s when marine archaeologists found submerged pillars and over 120 stone anchors on the seafloor near the modern city of Dwarka. Experts from the Archaeological Survey of India continue to dive into the basin to map these structures. The Gujarat government has also announced plans to launch submarine tourism here to allow visitors to see the structures firsthand.



Petrographic thin-section image of an Ammonia sp. microfossil in the Gaj formation of the Dwarka Basin. DOI: 10.1017/JPA.2025.10198

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Anganwadi workers call off protest after govt. agrees to fulfil demands

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of Anganavadi Noukarara Sangha had staged a protest demanding fulfilment of demands related to wages, service conditions, and strengthening of anganwadis across the State. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Anganwadi workers called off their protest on Tuesday evening after the government reportedly promised to fulfill their demands, including the release of gratuity of about ₹183 crore to retired anganwadi workers.

A joint meeting was held with the anganwadi workers on Tuesday along with Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar and the Chief Minister's Personal Secretary Anjum Parvez, Principal Secretaries of the School Education and Literacy and the Women and Child Development Departments. S. Varalakshmi, president, Karnataka State Anganwadi Workers' Union, claimed the government has agreed to release gratuity to retired anganwadi workers from 2011 to March 2023.

"It was requested that no more pre-primary classes be started in any government school except the 7,500 pre-primary classes started by the School Education and Literacy Department. The release of the required ₹60 crore for the 5,000 LKG and UKG classes started by the Women and Child Development Department was demanded. The government has agreed to all requests," she added.

She also said that the government has also agreed to the fulfillment of other demands, including the withdrawal of an order to provide money instead of eggs to anganwadi centres and the appointment of anganwadi workers within three months.

Man arrested for attempting to smuggle red sanders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Madiwala police have arrested a man for allegedly attempting to smuggle red sanders and seized 285 kg of red sandalwood pieces worth ₹7.12 lakh. On March 11, they received information that the accused was present near the Silk Board Bus Stand, carrying red sandalwood pieces with the intention of selling them. A police team apprehended the suspect.

Based on information, they recovered the stored red sandalwood.

Gang of 3 held for money-doubling fraud; ₹40 lakh recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bagalagunte police have arrested a gang of three persons for allegedly running a money-doubling racket and cheating a businessman from Koppal by promising to double his investment.

According to the police, the complainant had met one of the accused in the Gandhinagar area about a year ago, and the two later developed a close acquaintance. The accused, who claimed to be involved in real estate, told the complainant that his associate urgently required ₹50 lakh and assured that the amount would be returned with double profits.

When the complainant expressed his inability to arrange the full amount, the accused allegedly collected ₹28.60 lakh from him. After receiving the money, the suspects went incommunicado.

A case was registered and an investigation was launched. The police tracked down and arrested the three accused near Junjappa Temple.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to cheating the complainant. Further investigation revealed that they had similarly duped another victim of ₹18.50 lakh.

The police said the accused had spent a portion of the money and distributed the remaining amount among their associates. The police recovered ₹40 lakh and seized a car used in the offence. The accused were produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody.

THE HINDU
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Entrance exam: Online, April to June 2026
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Funds allocated in the Delhi Budget for underground wiring

200 in ₹ crore. The Delhi Budget 2026-27 allocated ₹3,942 crore to the UT's power department, including ₹3,500 crore for subsidy payments and ₹200 crore for shifting overhead wires underground. The government doubled the funds for shifting overhead high-tension and low-tension wires from ₹100 crore in 2025-26 to ₹200 crore. PTI

Projects cleared under border development scheme since 2004-05

39,248 More than 39,000 projects have been approved under the Border Area Development Programme, which is in its 'sunset phase', since FY 2004-05 in the bordering States and Union Territories, including Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. PTI

People arrested in Iran over online activity 'undermining security'

466 Iranian police arrested 466 people over alleged online activities undermining national security, state media reported on Tuesday, in one of the largest sweeps since the war with Israel and the U.S. began. Overall arrests this month have crossed 1,000, with those detained accused of filming sensitive sites or "cooperating with the enemy." REUTERS

Number of drones fired at Ukraine by Russia overnight

400 Russia launched nearly 400 long-range drones at Ukrainian civilian areas overnight, Ukraine's air force said. Russia also fired 23 cruise missiles and seven ballistic missiles at Ukraine, hitting at least 10 locations, according to the air force. Ukrainian civilians have endured relentless barrages since Russia's full-scale invasion over four years ago. AP

Number of civilians killed in Sudan in drone strikes this year

500 Over 500 civilians were killed in drone strikes in Sudan between January and March 15, 2026, the UN said on Tuesday. A sharp spike in the use of drones in Sudan underlines the devastating impact of high-tech weapons in populated areas, said Marta Hurtado, spokeswoman for the UN rights office. AFP

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When the Chief Justice steps away

The recusal of CJI Surya Kant from the Chief Election Commissioner appointment law challenge case raises important questions about conflict of interest, the doctrine of necessity, and the limits of pre-emptive judicial direction, as well as the need for a statute governing judicial recusal

LETTER AND SPIRIT

V. Venkatesan

On March 20, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant stepped away from hearing a batch of petitions challenging the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. The legislation replaced the Chief Justice of India with a Union Minister, on the selection panel for appointing the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners, superseding the Supreme Court's 2023 interim arrangement. "I will be accused of conflict of interest," the CJI remarked before directing that the case be listed on April 7 before a bench comprising judges not in the line of succession to the office of the Chief Justice. While the order directs the Registry to list the case before a Bench to be earmarked separately by the Chief Justice of India, his oral remarks while hearing the case, *Dr. Jaya Thakur v. Union of India* (2024), raises questions that will linger long after the Bench is constituted. CJI Surya Kant is the second CJI to recuse from hearing the case. Earlier, CJI Sanjiv Khanna recused from hearing the same case in 2024.

The doctrine and its foundations

Recusal flows from one of the oldest maxims of natural justice: *nemo judex in causa sua* – no one shall be a judge in their own cause. In its modern form, the Supreme Court has moved from strict automatic disqualification for pecuniary interest, as in *Manak Lal v. Dr. Prem Chand* (1957), toward a standard of real likelihood of bias. *Ranjit Thakur v. Union of India* (1987) refined this further, holding that a reasonable apprehension of bias, and not merely a remote possibility, justifies withdrawal.

Every court to have addressed the question has held that the decision to recuse, rests on the judge's own conscience. No party can compel it, and no statute in India codifies the standard, unlike in the United States where Section 455 of Title 28 of the United States Code requires a federal judge to disqualify themselves in any proceeding in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned.

The NJAC precedent

The most directly relevant Indian precedent cuts the other way. When the validity of the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 was before a five-judge Constitution Bench in *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India* (2015), recusal was sought against Justice J.S. Khehar on the ground that he would eventually become Chief Justice and therefore had an institutional stake in whether the Collegium or the NJAC governed future appointments. Justice Khehar refused. His reasoning rested on two pillars. First, the conflict infected every judge on the bench, since all would eventually be part of the Collegium if the petitioners succeeded, or subject to the NJAC if they failed. Second, and more fundamentally, he invoked what legal systems call the doctrine of necessity: when the only available forum is also the forum that faces a disqualifying conflict, the conflict must yield to institutional obligation. "If I were to accede to the prayer for my recusal, I would be initiating a wrong practice, and laying down a wrong precedent," he held.

In his concurring opinion, Justice Kurian Joseph added that a judge choosing to recuse bears a constitutional duty of transparency, that indicating reasons for withdrawal is itself part of the oath of office taken under the Third Schedule of the Constitution.

The present case

The structural logic of NJAC applies equally to the CEC law challenge, and arguably with less force for recusal. Every sitting judge of the Supreme Court is a potential future Chief Justice under the seniority convention established by the Second Judges case. The conflict of interest that moved Chief Justice Surya Kant to step aside, therefore, afflicts every member of the court simultaneously. The doctrine of necessity then compels the conclusion that the Supreme Court must hear the case regardless, since no alternative court of equivalent jurisdiction exists, while acknowledging the conflict openly, as the NJAC Bench did. The CJI's recusal, viewed through this lens, represents a departure from a principle the court itself laid down a decade ago.

A direction that binds successors

More troubling than the recusal itself is the accompanying oral direction (as reported by the media, though the order uploaded is silent on this). By specifying that the replacement bench must exclude judges in line to become Chief Justice, the CJI has made a prospective determination about the disqualification obligations of judges who have not yet considered the question for themselves. Recusal is an act of individual judicial conscience. It cannot be mandated in advance by a predecessor. To pre-assign a conflict of interest to judges who have not adjudicated whether one exists is to collapse the distinction between institutional incapacity and personal disqualification.

There is a further problem the direction does not account for: the office of the Chief Justice has occasionally passed to judges outside the expected seniority line due to the resignation, health, or death of those ahead of them. A judge constituted on the replacement bench as someone outside the line of succession could, through such contingency, subsequently reach the office of Chief Justice. The prophylactic rule, designed to eliminate the appearance of self-interest, cannot account for the accidents of judicial mortality.

CJI Surya Kant's decision suggests another incongruity. If the CJI's recusal of himself and the other judges, who are in line to become CJI in the future is justified, can he, as Master of the Roster, decide which of the other judges can hear this case, given that the order authorises him to earmark the bench? In the recent debate on the no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, many members from the Opposition queried whether he could choose the person who would preside over the House during the proceedings, even while choosing to recuse himself. The answer from the government, that the Speaker's post does not envisage a vacancy in office, may be accurate, but it still fails to satisfy the doubts on conflict of interest, which led to the decision to recuse in the first place.

The need for codification

India has no statute governing judicial recusal, no binding code of conduct enforceable against Supreme Court judges, and no mechanism to review a recusal decision once made. The American experience illustrates both the value of clear rules and their limits without an external review mechanism: Section 455 provides a codified objective standard, but at the apex level it remains entirely self-enforced.

The CEC law dispute, in which two successive Chief Justices have now recused from the same case, underscores the urgency. When the question of who appoints the guardians of elections is left to a bench constituted by informal direction rather than principled rule, the deficit is institutional as much as it is individual.

India's constitutional framework is well-served by judges who exercise their discretion with care. It would be better served still by a framework that transforms that discretion into obligation.

(V. Venkatesan is a senior legal journalist and researcher.)

Judicial discretion: No party can compel recusal, and no statute in India codifies when a judge must step aside. GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

On March 20, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant stepped away from hearing a batch of petitions challenging the Chief Election Commissioner appointment law, citing 'conflict of interest'.

The accompanying oral direction on constituting a replacement bench excluding judges in line to become Chief Justice, amounts to a prospective determination by the CJI on disqualification obligations of judges.

The conflict of interest that led CJI Surya Kant to step aside, can be said to affect every member of the court. However, the doctrine of necessity compels the Supreme Court to hear the case, since no alternative court of equivalent jurisdiction exists.

Matchday essentials

Tickets: Only via official RCB app/website; mobile QR (non-transferable, visible five hours before entry)

Entry: Gates open four hours early; access mainly via Cubbon Road and Link Road; Queen's Road restricted

Crowd flow: Mandatory holding area after QR check, turnstile-based controlled entry, designed to reduce congestion

Transport: Limited pre-booked parking; shuttle services; free metro ride for all match ticket holders (to and fro).

Security: Multi-layer checks, 500+ CCTV cameras; no entry without valid ticket

Police advisory: Arrive early, avoid private vehicles, follow new stadium movement system

Source: Bengaluru City Police

From Page One

Elaborate security arrangements in place for RCB matches

Entry to the stadium will be from Queen's Road through six-metre-wide gates. A total of seven gates with 28 entry points have been set up to facilitate crowd movement. Only QR-code tickets will be accepted at the venue, and no physical tickets will be issued. The tickets are non-transferable.

Safety arrangements

Holding areas have been created inside the stadium premises to allow spectators to assemble in an orderly manner before entry, thereby preventing congestion on surrounding roads.

The police have been instructed not to allow gatherings outside the stadium that could disrupt traffic.

QR codes for entry will be generated three hours prior to the match to streamline access and travel. Drills will be conducted to ensure foolproof security arrangements.

Cameras

Around 500 CCTV cameras have been installed for surveillance. Personnel from multiple units, including law and order, traffic police, State Disaster Response Force, Karnataka State Reserve Police, CAR, Home Guards, and patrol teams, have been deployed. AI-enabled cameras will also be used to monitor crowd gatherings and assist in crowd control.

As a precautionary measure, nine ambulances will be stationed on standby, along with four medical aid centres equipped with healthcare teams to respond to any emergencies.

Police save assault victim, trace elderly woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In two separate incidents, swift action by the Bengaluru city police helped rescue an injured assault victim and reunite a distressed elderly woman with her family. In both cases, the police were tipped off by citizens through the Namma 112 emergency response system.

In the early hours of Saturday, a 32-year-old man was brutally assaulted by unidentified persons using iron rods at Talacauvery Layout under the Amruthalli Police Station limits.

The incident occurred around 4.36 a.m., leaving the victim with serious injuries and bleeding profusely. Local residents, noticing the attack, immediately alerted Namma 112. Officials shifted the victim to a nearby hospital in the next five minutes and ensured he received emergency medical treatment.

In another incident on Sunday at around 10.12 p.m., local residents found an elderly woman, aged around 60, sitting by the roadside, extremely stressed. The residents alerted the police through the helpline, prompting the swift dispatch of Hoysala personnel.

"The elderly woman was unable to provide details about her identity or residence. Following enquiries in the surrounding area, the police traced her daughter and safely reunited the woman with her family," the police said in a statement.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru players to wear jersey number '11' in memory of stampede victims

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) players will wear jersey number '11' in memory of the lives lost in the stampede during the team's IPL title-winning celebrations here last year.

"In memory of the 11 fans we lost, the players will wear jersey number '11' during practice sessions on match days, and black armbands," RCB CEO Rajesh Menon said at a press conference here on Tuesday.

The franchise will also leave 11 seats empty during RCB's matches at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium as a "tribute to the fans who will always remain a part of our journey".

RCB Director of Cricket Mo Bobat and CEO Rajesh Menon addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday. PTI

Unbox event

The RCB 'Unbox' event, a pre-season fan event, will not be held this year.

"We have decided not to host the 'Unbox' event as our primary focus has been on ensuring that everything inside the stadium is executed flawlessly," Mr. Rajesh said.

He added that RCB has invested approximately "₹7 crore towards enhancing crowd management infrastructure, including multiple baggage scanners and command centres."

Mr. Rajesh stated that RCB did not make any public statements to address the stampede, or hold any press conference, because the "matter was sub-judice".

Internal inquiry?

He stonewalled questions on whether the franchise conducted an internal enquiry into the events that led to the 11 deaths.

"Four agencies are working on the case. We have been very cooperative with all the agencies. Now it is in the High Court, where the charge sheet needs to be filed. We'll see what is there in the charge sheet. I don't know what's in the charge sheet," Mr. Rajesh said.

KMF is dairy partner

Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF)-Nandini is partnering with RCB for the 2026 edition of the Indian Premier League T-20 cricket, which is scheduled to begin from March 28.

"As two iconic brands rooted in Karnataka, this partnership is built on shared values of excellence, trust and a deep connection with our community," said Mr. Rajesh.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

"e" Procurement Notice 1. Online tenders are invited under the e-procurement platform in Peddapally, Khammam, Nizamabad, Districts, For 3 Bridge works & 8 Road works under Plan & Non Plan for an amount of **Rs.350.52 crores** vide **CE(R&B),** SR, e-NIT No. 11/E-in-C(SR&CRN)/SE(D&P)-II/EE-III/DEE-II/AEE/2026 dt: 20. 03.2026.

List of works

S.No.	District	No. of Works	Scheme	Amount Crores
	Bridge works			
1	Peddapally	2	PLAN	228
2	Nizamabad	1	Non-Plan	0.82
	Road works			
3	Khammam	3	PLAN	116
4	Medak	2	Non-Plan	2
5	Nizamabad	3	STSDF	3.7
	Total Amount			350.52

2. Tenderers can download the tender schedule and further details can be seen from the e-marketplace i.e., Procurement marketplace at **https://tender.telangana.gov.in/.** The last date of receipt of tenders is 06.04.2026 **3.** Further, Corrigendum to the CTN issued vide NIT No. 1606-5/DCE(R)EE(R)DEE-IV/AEE-IV/2025-26, dated 06.03.2026 vide refernce 2nd cited, the Modified last date for receipt of tenders for 6 Nos. of works in Suryapet District, 2 No.s in Medchal Malkajgiri District is **31.03.2026 up to 4:00 PM.**

DIPR R.O.No.17449-PP/CL/ADV7/1/2025-26 Dt. 23.03.2026 Sd/- For Engineer-in-Chief (R&B) State Roads & CRN, MD-TGRDC

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are herby notified that my client **Sri. Venkatesh** S/o Jayarama N is the absolute owner of residential Site No.18, Assessment No. 13/4, Old Katha No. 89,91,92 Present BBMP Katha No.18, Measurement 50*60 (3000 Square Feet) situated at Chudenapura Village, Old 14th Ward Rajarajeshwari Nagara, Now Comes BBMP, Bangalore District. and same as been purchased from Smt. M.K. Nagamma under Sale Deed dated:17/08/2010. Whereas on 11/05/2025 to 13/06/2025, my client has lost orginal Sale Deed Dated:17/08/2010, Doc. No.KEN-1-02031/2010-11, C.D.No.KEND421 and Sale Deed Dated:13/03/2008, Doc. No.KEN-1-04304/2007-08, C.D.No.KEND394 and my client has lost/misplaced the above mentioned Original Documents pertaining to the above said property. And our client has lodged a police complaint before the Police station unit on 24/03/2026.

Any persons who holding/finding or in possession of said Sale deeds documents or tittle deeds should intimate to undersigned and if any person, Bank financial institution having any claim or right in respect of the said properties by way of Sale, Mortgage, Lease, Lien is hereby called upon to intimate to undersigned within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice and for such claim of any with all supporting documents failing which the transaction in favour my client shall be completed without reference to such claim and if any claims, transactions or if any such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on my client.

SHARATH K .M ADVOCATE
Yashas Law Firm, # 19/3, Ground floor Railway Parallel Road, Nehrunagar, Seshadripuram, Bangaluru-560020
Mobile.9964651824

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

SPEED RUN BETWEEN ALMATTI TO WANDAL & WANDAL TO ALMATTI

The Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, New Delhi will conduct Statutory Inspection and speed trial run between Almatti – Wandal & Wandal – Almatti stations as part of Gadag – Hotgi doubling line on 25th March - 2026. Public Should not walk through or cross the track. Opening of the New line for public carriage will be after the certification of Commissioner of Railway Safety.

PUB/1008/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Chief Engineer-I, Construction / Hubballi**

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

UCO BANK (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
UCO Bank Electronic City Branch : Gayathri Building, Electronic City Phase 1, Bangalore-560100

GOLD LOAN AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public, and the under mentioned persons(referred as 'borrowers' with details mentioned in the Table given below) in particular that owing to failure of borrower(s) to repay their outstanding dues towards Gold loan availed by them, the undersigned will sell the gold ornaments/jewellery/coins, pledged by them with UCO Bank to secure their loans by public auction. Such auction will be on "As is What is basis" & "Whatever there is Basis" &"Without recourse Basis" on **16.04.2026 at 01:00 PM at Electronic City Branch.**

Other "General terms and Conditions of Gold Auction", subject to which the auction will be conducted by Bank, are displayed on the Notice Board of respective Branch as shown against name of the Borrower in the table given below. Such 'General Terms and Conditions of Gold Auction' are also displayed on website of the Bank. A Person submitting the EMD shall be deemed to have read, understood and accepted the terms contained herein as well as the 'General Terms and Conditions of Gold Auction', as referred above and is required to sign the same.

Bank reserves the right to cancel or postpone the auction sale as it deems fit at any stage without any prior notice by display of Notice on Notice Board of the branch concerned.

Account No	Branch Name	Borrower Name	Reserve Price	EMD Amt(Rs.)	Incremental Bid	Last Date For Submission of EMD	Auction Venue
34790610001646	Electronic City	Shiba Barman	Rs. 1,06,400/-	Rs. 26,600/-	Rs. 2000/-	16.04.2026	Electronic City Branch

Date : 24.03.2026
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-, Branch Head
Electronic City Branch

Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Niyamitha
(A Govt of Karnataka Enterprises)
O/o The Executive Engineer, CNNL., KCD Division,
T. Narasipura, Mysuru District - 571124
Phone No. 08227-261362
E-Mail eekcdtnp@yahoo.co.in

Short Term Tender Notification No.17/2025-26 dated: 18.03.2026

Itemwise tender is hereby invited in KPP-Portal by the Executive Engineer, Kabini Canal Distributory Division, T. Narasipura, Mysuru District on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Mysore from eligible PWD Department registered contractors for Improvements to Kothegala tank coming under the atchkat of D 36 & 37 of KRBC Work. All the required documents are to be uploaded along with the tenders. amount put to tender for the work is **Rs.398.31** Lakhs Last date for tender queries / clarification is **27.03.2026 till 4.00 p.m.,** last date for online submission of tender with EMD is **30.03.2026** till 5.30 p.m. Date of opening of technical bids is **01.04.2026 at 11.00 a.m.** Date of opening of Financial bids is **06.04.2026 at 11.00 a.m.** For further details, contact the above said during office hours and through kpp-portal by logging in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
CNNL., KCD Division,T. Narasipura.

DIPR/DDMYS/1850/KSMCA/1051/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase house property described in the schedule from Smt.Kshama Ramanna W/o Girish Krishne Gowda. It has been represented to my client by the above said seller and her family members that, she is the sole and absolute owner in possession of the schedule property having right and title to sell the same in favour of my client.

This is to inform the general public that, any person having any objection to the above sale transaction, may lodge his/her/their claim along with relevant document with the undersigned within 10 days from the date of this notice, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction as if there are no objections for the same.

SCHEDULE

All that vacant site bearing No.154/A, BBMP E-PID No.2598611873 situated in BCC HBCS Layout, 2nd Stage, Attiguppe, (Gangondanahalli), Vijayanagar, Bengaluru, measuring East to West :50 feet and North to South:30 feet, Bounded on the East by Road, West by Site No.152/A, North by Site No.154 and South by: Site No.155.

Bangalore
24.3.2026

V.D.Raviraj & Smt.B.M.Sumitra Rai,
Advocates
#9 (At Rear), Corporation Shopping Complex, Tank Bund Road, Subhash Nagar, Bangalore–09
Tel: 080-2225 7766
Cell No.9448009944

बिहार सरकार

प्रारूप–I 01/नि./(लेखा) सोशल मीडिया–14/2026

कार्यालय, निबंधक, सहयोग समितियाँ, बिहार, पटना
(सहकारिता विभाग)
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

एतद् द्वारा इच्छुक सोशल मिडिया से विभागीय योजनाओं से संबंधित जागरूकता अभियान एवं विभाग के प्रचार–प्रसार एवं सोशल मीडिया प्रबंधन के लिए एजेंसी के चयन हेतु निविदा (RFP) आमंत्रित की जाती है। इच्छुक प्रतिष्ठानों द्वारा दिनांक 15.04.2026 के अपराह्न 4:00 बजे तक निर्धारित शर्तों के अधीन (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) निविदा E-proc 2.0 पर के माध्यम से उपलब्ध करा सकते है। निविदा स्थानीय क्रय समिति के समक्ष दिनांक 16.04.2026 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे स्थानीय क्रय समिति के अध्यक्ष के कक्ष में खोली जाएगी। निविदा खोलने के समय निविदाकर्त्ता को स्वयं या उनके द्वारा प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधि का उपस्थित रहना अनिवार्य होगा। विस्तृत जानकारी, नियम/शर्ते सोशल मिडिया प्रबंधन के लिए एजेन्सी की विशिष्टियाँ विभागीय वेबसाईट **https://state.bihar.gov.in/cooperative/and https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध है।

(समरेश कुमार)
संयुक्त निबंधक (साख),
सहयोग समितियाँ, बिहार, पटना

PR- 027160 (District) 2025-26

उक्त सूचना **state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Chennai Division

E-Auction Notice / Catering / Passenger Amenities / NFR / Parking / E-Auction / 2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager, Chennai Division, Southern Railway calls for bids (commercial) through E-Auction and E-tender for award of Catering stall contracts and Passenger Amenities, NFR and Parking contracts in the following Railway Stations / locations. The 'E'-Auctions and E-tenders scheduled are as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Catalogue No.	Sub Category	Location	Auction Date	Tendering Mode	Auction Time
1	MAS-EMR-2026	Emergency Medical Room	TBM	01.04.2026	E-auction	15:00
2	MAS-EMR-2026	Emergency Medical Room	KPD	01.04.2026	E-auction	15:00
3	MAS-EMR-2026	Emergency Medical Room	CGL	01.04.2026	E-auction	15:00
4	MAS-EMR-2026	Emergency Medical Room	MS	01.04.2026	E-auction	15:00
5	MAS-PAUT-177	Pay & Use Toilet	CGL	07.04.2026	E-auction	15:00
6	MAS-PAUT-177	Pay & Use Toilet	MLMR	07.04.2026	E-auction	15:00
7	MAS-BOC-31	Battery Operated Carts	CGL	07.04.2026	E-auction	15:00
8	MAS-BOC-31	Battery Operated Carts	TBM	07.04.2026	E-auction	15:00
9	MAS-MPS-2026-2	Multi-purpose stall	KPD	31.03.2026	E-auction	15:00
10	MAS-MPS-2026-2	Multi-purpose stall	KPD	31.03.2026	E-auction	15:00
11	MAS-MPS-2026-2	Multi-purpose stall	TBM	31.03.2026	E-auction	15:00
12	MAS-MPS-2026-2	Multi-purpose stall	PER	31.03.2026	E-auction	15:00
13	MAS-WVM-CGL	Water Vending Machine	CGL Cluster (15 locations at 10 stations	31.03.2026	E-auction	15:00
14	Tender No. 26008	Catering stall / General Minor Unit	CGL	10.04.2026	E-Tender	15:00
15	Tender No. 25009	Catering stall / General Minor Unit	PON	10.04.2026	E-Tender	15:00
16	NFR-BSS-VLK	Battery Swapping Stations	VLK	30.03.2026	E-auction	15:30
17	NFR-MAS-GZ-2026	Gaming Zone	MAS	06.04.2026	E-auction	15:30
18	NFR-MAS-BR-26	Supply of sanitized quality bedroll services	16159/160, 12695/696 & 22639/640, 12671/672 &12685/686	06.04.2026	E-auction	15:30
19	MAS-PARKING-26	Two Wheeler Parking	KVP	06.04.2026	E-auction	15:00
20	MAS-PARKING-26	Two Wheeler Parking	GI	06.04.2026	E-auction	15:00
21	MAS-PARKING-26	Mixed Parking	VLCY Part C and D	06.04.2026	E-auction	15:00

All other details can be viewed in the website - **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager / Chennai

MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NOTICE

This is for the information of the General Public that the process of receiving applications for the PRADHAN MANTRI RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR (PMRBP) will commence on 01.04.2026 on the National Awards Portal **(https://awards.gov.in)**. The awards are given to children who deserve recognition at the national level in the fields of **Bravery, Sports, Social Service, Science & Technology, Environment, and Arts & Culture.**

Any child above the age of 5 years and not exceeding 18 years (as on 31st July, 2026), who is an Indian Citizen and residing in India is eligible for the awards.

Nominations from any & citizen will be received only through the National Awards Portal on **https://awards.gov.in.** Self-nomination recommendations for the awards, both shall be considered. The last date for receipt of online applications is 31.07.2026. For more details, please visit the National Awards Portal **(https://awards.gov.in).**

CBC 46101/11/0046/2526

Government of Karnataka
Office of the, Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari

No.PWD/EE/Bly/TS-4/6926/2025-26 **Date : 20-03-2026.**

Short term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the work detailed in the table from the eligible suppliers registered in Karnataka, through Karnataka Public Procurement portal (KPPP). Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded from the web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.

Note : For any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions or if recalled, tenderers can view in KPP portal. Separate notification in this regard will not be published.

TABLE

Sl No	Details of Work	Estimate Cost (Rs.in Lakhs)
	2059-(Non-Plan)-Maintenance of Non-Residential Buildings :	
1)	PWD/2025-26/IND0242	80.00

The Tender Events are as under:

1)Last dates for queries (through e-procurement portal): **26-03-2026 upto 12.00 Hours**
2)Last date for submission of tenders through KPP portal: **30-3-2026 upto 16.00 Hours.**
3)Date and time of opening of Technical Bids.: **01-04-2026 at 11.00 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Ballari.

DIPR/Ballari/1173/KSMCA/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client propose to purchase a property i.e., the Schedule Property from **Sri. SRINATH. K,** aged 31 years, S/o. Sri. Karura. M, R/o. No.855, AECS 'B' Block, 5th Cross, Near Ganesha Temple, Singasandra, Anekal, Bangalore-560068, and he represented to my client that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property described below with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same and no other person/s has/have any right, title, interest or claim of whatsoever over the same and the property is free from all encumbrances, charges, mortgage and lien and he has not entered into any Agreement for Sale or any other commitment in respect thereof. Any person having any right, title, interest or whatsoever claim against the Schedule Property or having any objection of whatsoever nature to the proposed transaction may, within **10 DAYS** hereof, lodge with us his/her/their/its claim in writing in this behalf with the relevant documentary proof in support of such right, title, interest or claim or objection. If no such claim or objection is received within the said period, my client will presume that no person has any such claim and will proceed with the transaction.

: SCHEDULE PROPERTY :

All that piece and parcel of the the EASTERN PORTION of the Property bearing Old No.37/C-65/66/1, Old Property No.35, previously situated at Thavarekere Village, Bangalore Presently the BBMP now Bangalore Dakshina Nagara Palike, Suddaguntepalya, Old Ward No.63, New Ward No.152 has assigned as Municipal No.15, Property No.37/C/15, old PID No.63-127-15, e-PID No.4170008165, at 6th Cross, Balajinagar, Suddaguntepalya, Bangalore, measuring East to West: **15 Feet** and North to South: **40 feet,** in all **600 Sq.ft.,** and bounded on: **East by : Property bearing No.36, West by : Western half portion of same Site presently No.37/B, North by:Road, South by : Property bearing No.41.**

Srinivasa S.A., Advocate
No.79/B, 7th Main, 50 feet Road, BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 050.
Mob: 9008003449
E-mail : srinilegals@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore Date : 25-03-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client propose to purchase a property i.e., the Schedule Property from **Sri. SRINATH. K,** aged 31 years, S/o. Sri. Karura. M, R/o. No.855, AECS 'B' Block, 5th Cross, Near Ganesha Temple, Singasandra, Anekal, Bangalore-560068, and he represented to my client that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property described below with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same and no other person/s has/have any right, title, interest or claim of whatsoever over the same and the property is free from all encumbrances, charges, mortgage and lien and he has not entered into any Agreement for Sale or any other commitment in respect thereof. Any person having any right, title, interest or whatsoever claim against the Schedule Property or having any objection of whatsoever nature to the proposed transaction may, within **10 DAYS** hereof, lodge with us his/her/their/its claim in writing in this behalf with the relevant documentary proof in support of such right, title, interest or claim or objection. If no such claim or objection is received within the said period, my client will presume that no person has any such claim and will proceed with the transaction.

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Srinivasa S.A., Advocate
No.79/B, 7th Main, 50 feet Road, BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 050.
Mob: 9008003449
E-mail : srinilegals@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore Date : 25-03-2026

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRACHI Mantri, D/o Sanjay Ravindra Mantri, R/at No.9102, Prestige Song of South Apt T9 Ph2, Bannerghatta Main Road, Akshaya Vana Begur, Bengaluru-560068 have changed my name from Prachi Sanjay Mantri to Prachi Mantri vide affidavit dated 24-03-2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

I, MAN Bahadur Gurung Service No. JC 624795P, Rank: SUB, presently posted Unit 4/8, Gorkha Rifle, D Coy, Pin 910204, C/o. 56 APO have changed my minor son's name from Son Naman Gurung to Naman Gurung vide affidavit dated 24-03-2026 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed

REAL ESTATE

OOTY BUNGALOW 3000sqft 3BHK In 30 Cents. 10000 Sqft Open Space, Mango Properties 7810008000

SITUATION VACANT

MARKETING

WANTED
Area Sales Managers
Experience in Medical equipment and consumables.
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RBECK HEALTHTECH PVT. LTD
13, F2 "B" Block, Eden Garden Apartment, Thiruvallur Street, Keelkattalai, Chennai-600117
Ph No79757 68550
Whatsapp No: 62824 42418
Mail Id: info@rbeck.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, GEETHA Raveendran is my official name as per my PAN and Aadhar card. Geetha Ravi is my alias name. I submit as per my affidavit dtd 20-02-26 that Geetha Raveendran and Geetha Ravi is one and the same person

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Eligible agencies interested to participate can collect tender forms from the Office of the General Superintendent, Christian Medical College Vellore, Ida Scudder Road, Vellore **from 27th March 2026 to 8th April 2026** between 10 am to 4 pm along with a Demand Draft for Rs. 5000/- drawn in favour of CMC Vellore Association. Sealed envelope should be submitted on or before **11th April 2026** before 12.00 noon.

General Superintendent
CMC Vellore

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A poster of Ranveer Singh from Dhurandhar: The Revenge. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' and the perils of 'nationalist' violence

From a political perspective, such films appear to enable the construction of a new kind of Indian citizen, in which a narrowly defined nationalism is treated as the primary virtue and is closely associated with violence. This carries significant implications for both culture and democracy

Nissim Mannathukkaren

With Dhurandhar's second part, it is as if director Aditya Dhar wanted to prove his critics right, and not wrong. With the first part there was a huge backlash against the few critics who had called it propaganda. Now, even ardent fans find it difficult to deny that the sequel is propaganda as the political messaging is no longer subtle.

This propaganda is not in favour of the state, like many Hollywood films, but in favour of the ruling party, thus collapsing together the state and the party. Nevertheless, the label "propaganda" is hardly novel in a Bollywood climate suffused with propagandist productions. What is more critical, in a political reading, is that films such as Dhurandhar are enabling the construction of a new kind of Indian citizen, in which a narrowly defined nationalism is the only virtue and is also indissolubly associated with violence. This has grave implications for culture as well as democracy.

When the chief antagonist, a barbaric ISI figure Major Iqbal (Arjun Rampal) who wants to commit unspeakable horrors on Indians, is told by his father: "You said your people would win again this time, didn't you?" against the backdrop of the 2014 visual of the oath-taking of Prime Minister Modi, the film is emphatic about labelling the main opposition in the world's largest democracy, the Congress party, as an ally of the terror-sponsoring Pakistani state.

Rewriting history

When the film portrays demonetisation as a masterstroke against Pakistani production of Indian fake currency, it seeks to rewrite history. After all, demonetisation led to the deaths of numerous people, did not eliminate terrorism or black money (99.3% of currency was returned to the banks), devastated the vast informal sector and brought down India's GDP growth rate from 8.3% (2016) to 3.9% (2019). For a film that is lauded for showing real events, many of the terrorists and gangsters were killed, unlike depicted, before 2014.

As histories are being blatantly rewritten for explicitly militarist-nationalist causes, the film ends with an actual Army motto, 'Balidan Param Dharm' (sacrifice is the highest duty). Here, every male citizen is encouraged to perform what sociologist Klaus Theweleit – who studied male fantasies and Nazism – would call as "soldierly masculinity."

After all, the film is unabashed when a lead character Ajay Sanyal (R. Madhavan playing Ajit Doval) tells the protagonist Jaskirat/Hamza (Ranveer Singh): "We are men... we are meant to fight. For our cause. For our dreams. For our rights. For our family." Unsurprisingly, the female lead, Yalina (Sara Arjun), gets around 15 minutes of screen time in the four-hour film as her husband sets out exacting revenge for all the nation's wounds.

Reducing nationalism to performative violence

Being an actual soldier and a metaphorical soldier for the nation are intertwined. Jaskirat, a young man whose father and grandfather were in the Army, wanted to join the military himself. But his dreams are scotched when his father and sister are killed, and another sister is kidnapped. In the face of a failed government (conveniently in Punjab) that protects the politically influential rapists and murderers, Jaskirat is "forced" to kill the 12 perpetrators and find his sister.

But if the visible face of the state gives him capital punishment, the invisible face of the state rescues him from death row and turns him into the nation's soldier. Anger against those who destroyed his family and the government that failed to protect him is now channelled into an external enemy state – or internal enemies who aid the external enemy. As Jaskirat declares – after a few years as Hamza, the spy, in Pakistan – he has abandoned his longing to return to his family as his only obsession is to complete the task of the elimination of nation's enemies.

This is the sorcery that Dhurandhar performs: the reduction of nationalism from the Constitution's goals of establishing a democratic republic that ensures justice, liberty, equality and fraternity of all to one that is merely about protecting the nation from enemies through performative violence. Every other socio-economic goal is inconsequential.

'Internal' enemies

While the external enemy is crystal clear, the internal enemies, who aid the external enemy, are also the usual suspects: Khalistanis, Naxalites, Kashmiri militants, Popular Front of Kerala, Uttar Pradesh slaughterhouses, NGOs, socialists and universities. Here, even legitimate democratic dissidents are termed as terror allies.

While the film places the UP-don Atiq Ahmad as the linchpin of the Pakistani terror network and shows Dawood Ibrahim saying that there is fear in "our people" since the chaiwala has come, it cannot mention, that Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was once charged under terror laws for harbouring Dawood-gang terrorists, was a five-term ruling party MP (until 2024).

Violence becomes the sine qua non of nationalist justice here. If the "Angry Young Man" trope of the 1970s Hindi cinema is a rebellious anti-hero taking on the establishment against poverty and inequality and resolutely on the side of the poor, the angry young man of the present is a hero of the establishment, especially the popcorn-chomping classes. They vicariously enjoy the violent nationalist justice delivered by him, which includes forcing a terrorist who called Hindus cowards, to utter "Bharat Mata ki Jai", as he is killed.

The film does not just depict ghastly violence; it revels in it as spectacular entertainment juxtaposed with pulsating music, a music which liberally uses English hip-hop. Violence assumes, what cultural critic Henry Giroux calls, "a glamorous and fascist edge." Audience comments indicating that among the most enjoyed portions of the film were Jaskirat's brutal killings of his family's murderers show how films build common sense around vigilante justice, when police encounter killings have wide legitimacy.

Unmentionable violence

Just as a reductionist form of nationalism is invoked, the film conveys that only a certain form of violence in reality should evoke citizen anger: terrorist violence. As director Rajamouli said, commenting on Madhavan's role: "You carried the helplessness and frustration of a nation so well." All other forms of everyday violence (including structural violence), that of vast inequalities (the top 1% of Indians earn more income now than in the last year of the British Raj), the million plus lives lost due to air pollution annually, the hundreds of thousands who died under the COVID-19 pandemic for the lack of health care, those who were lynched in the name of religion, the children who died consuming contaminated cough syrup, and so on become unmentionable violence in the new nationalist cinematic imagination.

The philosopher Hannah Arendt had argued that the roots of totalitarianism lay in the lack of critical thinking, and in propaganda marked by "extreme contempt for facts." India, the nation of over 1.4 billion people, is throbbing with a treasure trove of human stories. Yet, Dhurandhar's new India asks to monochromatise our imagination.

(Nissim Mannathukkaren is Professor, International Development Studies, Dalhousie University, Canada)

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Musician Sir Elton John was born on this day in 1947. Here is a quiz on the British singer, songwriter and pianist

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
His tribute single "Candle in the Wind 1997", a rewritten version of his 1974 single, sold over 33 million copies worldwide and is the best-selling chart single of all time. Who was this tribute to?

QUESTION 2
John was the 19th EGOT winner in history. What is EGOT?

QUESTION 3
Which was John's debut album, and in which year?

QUESTION 4
What is the name of the film in which his life and career was dramatised?

QUESTION 5
Every year John hosts a party which has become one of the biggest high-profile Oscars parties in the Hollywood film industry. What is the cause for which he does it?

Elton John's songwriting partnership with this lyricist is considered as one of the most successful in history. Identify this lyricist. GETTY IMAGES VIA AFP

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The execution of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru followed their conviction in this case related to the assassination of John Saunders in Lahore. **Ans: Lahore Conspiracy Case**
2. The assassination of Saunders was intended as retaliation for the police assault on this nationalist leader who later died of injuries sustained during a lathi charge. **Ans: Lala Lajpat Rai**
3. The three revolutionaries were executed in this prison. **Ans: Lahore Central Jail in Lahore**
4. This pact between nationalist leaders and the British government was signed shortly before the executions in 1931. **Ans: Gandhi–Irwin Pact**
5. The title of the editorial published after the executions, by B. R. Ambedkar, in the Marathi weekly Janata on April 13, 1931? **Ans: Teen Bali (Three Victims)**
Visual: The Indian revolutionary, commander-in-chief of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, who died in a gun battle with the British police at Alfred Park in 1931. **Ans: Chandra Shekhar Azad**
Early Birds: C. Saravanan | Sudhir Thapa | Parimal Das | Prem Nath Tiwari | Pranav Shailesh K.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the difference between "hire" and "rent"? (C.G. Mallaiah, Hospet, Karnataka)

The two words can be used in connection with things. When you "hire" or "rent" something, you take possession of it temporarily for a certain fee. In both cases, there is a payment involved. Nowadays, there is a tendency to use the two words interchangeably, especially in American English. Here are a few examples:

We hired/rented a car for the trip.

Sumathi hired/rented a room for three months.

The students were so bored that they rented/hired a VCR for the weekend.

Unlike the word "rent", "hire" can be used with people as well. When you "hire" someone, you buy his/her services for a fee. One cannot "rent" an individual's services.

We hired a cook for three months.

Mala hired herself out as a translator.

How is the word "kudos" pronounced? What does the word mean? (Dr. K. Sankara Narayana, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh)

This is an informal word meaning "honour and glory". When you receive "kudos" for having done something, you get credit for it. It is an uncountable noun and is always followed by a singular verb. It is important to remember that there is no word "kudo". Like the words "physics", "statistics", and "mathematics", "kudos" always ends with an "s". Here are a few examples:

Rajnikanth enjoys all the kudos that goes with being a successful movie star.

The soldier received a lot of kudos from the high command for his brave deeds.

The word comes from the Greek "kudos" meaning "glory". The students at Oxford and Cambridge Universities made the word popular in the 18th century. The "k" is pronounced like the letter "Q" and the "u" is like the "oo" in words like "cool" and "fool". The "o" in the second syllable is like the "o" in "pot" and "hot". The final "s" is like the "s" in "sit" and "sip". The stress is on the first syllable.

Why are psychiatrists called "shrinks"? (S.S. Saravanan, Madurai)

The slang term "shrink" is applied not just to psychiatrists, but also to psychotherapists and psychologists.

"Shrink" is the shortened form of "headshrinker". This was the term used to refer to the medicine men among cannibal tribes. It was common practice among the "doctors" in these tribes to cut off their victim's head. When the head dried, it looked shrunk! Later, the skull was removed and this made the head look even smaller. Mercifully, our modern-day psychiatrists don't attempt to shrink our heads using the same techniques! They try their level best to "shrink" the illusions floating around inside our heads.

What is the correct response to "thank you"? Is it "Don't mention it", or "You're welcome"? (C.B.D. Rao, Bangalore)

Both are equally acceptable. "Don't mention it" is one of the standard responses in British English – some of the others being "That's all right" and "Not at all". The response "You're welcome" is considered very American. Thanks to the spread of American English, however, "you're welcome" is becoming quite common in all varieties of English.

Published in The Hindu on January 11, 2000

Word of the day

Wily:
marked by skill in deception

Synonyms: crafty, cunning

Usage: *She proved to be a wily negotiator, securing a better deal than expected.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/IJnn6E

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈwaɪ.li/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Bannerughatta Biological Park to soon get 25m observation tower

RNPF has committed a grant of ₹5 crore and the proposed tower will offer panoramic views of the forested valley of Bannerghatta National Park and the Bengaluru skyline

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 25-metre-high public observation tower will come up at Bannerughatta Biological Park (BBP) by the end of the year, for which construction is expected to begin next month.

In this regard, the Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies (RNPF) on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with BBP to support the development of a tower, committing a grant of ₹5 crore.

The proposed tower will offer panoramic views of the forested valley of Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) and the Bengaluru skyline enabling safe and regulated wildlife observation.

Designed to accommodate 50 visitors at a time, the observation tower will integrate sustainability features such as solar energy systems and rainwater harvesting. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

50 visitors

Designed to accommodate 50 visitors at a time, the structure will integrate sustainability features such as solar energy systems and rainwater harvesting.

A.V. Surya Sen, executive director, BBP, said this partnership marks a significant step in strengthening their commitment to conservation, education, and sustainable tourism. "The proposed tower will not only enhance visitor experience through immersive nature-based learning but also stand as a symbol of our dedication to environmentally responsible infrastructure," he said.

No trees affected

Mr. Sen added that the project is a brown field project and no trees would be felled for it.

"The tower will come up at Mirza Hill which is inside the zoo. Right now at this location, there is an existing old watch tower which is the highest point in the zoo from where one can get a 360 degrees view of BNP on one side, parts of BBP on the other side, the surrounding villages and Bengaluru city also up to some areas like Jayanagar and J.P. Nagar," he added.

"Public institutions like BBP are important spaces where people can connect with nature – not just as spectators, but as students and eventually as trustees of our amazing biodiversity. As our everyday connection with the natural world weakens, we need to rebuild it through shared experiences, access, and storytelling," said Rohini Nilekani, chairperson, RNPF.

100 species

BBP attracts over 2.2 million visitors annually and houses four different units – Zoo, Safari, Butterfly Park, and Rescue Centre – created within an area of 731.88 hectares. In total, there are 2,194 individual animals across 100 species.

Karnataka home to 274 springs; Belagavi district tops list with 59

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development Department has successfully completed the State's first spring census. According to the census, 274 springs have been enumerated across 31 districts, with Belagavi reporting the highest number with 59.

The census report has mapped the origins of key rivers to these springs, noting that the Cauvery originates at Talacauvery in Kodagu. FILE PHOTO

Hot spring

The census also noted that there is one hot spring at Bendru Theertha in Dakshina Kannada district.

B.K. Pavithra, Secretary, Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development Department, said that despite the logistical challenges posed by the monsoon, field enumerators leveraged a digital framework to successfully identify and document a total of 247 springs.

Highlighting the regional distribution and ecological health of these waterbodies, he added: "Our data reveals that Belagavi district leads the State, reporting the highest number with 59 springs. Furthermore, a significant majority of these vital water sources remain active, with 144 springs classified as perennial and 114 as seasonal, while 16 have dried up over time."

Key rivers

The census report has mapped the origins of key rivers to these springs, noting that the Cauvery originates at Talacauvery in Kodagu, the Hemavati at Javali in Chikkamagaluru, and the Sharavati at Ambutheertha in Shivamogga.

This digitised data will now serve as a foundational database for future spring conservation, rejuvenation projects, groundwater management, and comprehensive water resource planning across Karnataka.

Springs are natural outlets where groundwater flows to the surface through openings in the earth's crust. They typically occur when the water table intersects with the ground surface or when groundwater is forced out through fractures, faults, or permeable rock layers.

Western Ghats

"The Western Ghats and Malnad region, including districts like Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Belagavi, and Shivamogga, are primary hubs for spring formation due to high rainfall and favourable geological conditions. Owing to a unique hydrological feature, a hot spring in Bendru Theertha, is located in Dakshina Kannada district," the Karnataka Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development Department added.

The department has received a certificate of appreciation from the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti for its first sprint census.

Police launch drive after doctors create ruckus on road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking strong exception to a recent incident of reckless riding, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh has announced a special drive to curb traffic violations and indiscipline on city roads.

The move comes after three doctors, including a woman, were booked for allegedly creating a ruckus while triple riding under the influence of alcohol. The accused had reportedly been celebrating the completion of their Master of Science (MS) in Orthopaedics.

The incident occurred at around 10 p.m. on Sunday on 16th Main Road, between BTM Layout and Jayadeva Junction. Two of the riders were not wearing helmets at the time of the incident. According to the police, the trio was riding a two-wheeler recklessly and causing disturbance on the road.

Night patrol personnel have been instructed to maintain strict vigil.

"Strict action will be taken, including booking cases and seizing vehicles, to ensure traffic discipline and responsible road behaviour," the Commissioner said.

Lorry driver arrested for smuggling ganja

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major crackdown on drug trafficking, the City Crime Branch (CCB) police have arrested a person for allegedly transporting ganja concealed in a vegetable consignment. The lorry driver, identified as Ravi Kumar, 27, was transporting the contraband from Rajahmundry to Chamarajanagar district.

Based on information, officials conducted a raid on Sunday afternoon near Nayandahalli metro station.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 25	
RISE 06:21	SET 18:31
RISE 11:29	SET 00:00
THURSDAY, MAR. 26	
RISE 06:20	SET 18:31
RISE 12:32	SET 00:58
FRIDAY, MAR. 27	
RISE 06:19	SET 18:31
RISE 13:34	SET 01:56

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	34	19
Bengaluru	33	21

Bengaluru Today
33°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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African honour for scientist for role in saving maize crop from viral disease

Plant pathologist Suresh L.M. being conferred with the Africa Region Food Security Leadership award. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

A plant pathologist from Shivamogga district has won accolades for his contribution towards saving Africa's staple crop, maize, from devastation from the deadly Maize Lethal Necrosis (MLN) disease that threatened the food security of several African countries.

Suresh L.M., who is a native of Sagar and an alumnus of the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bengaluru, was honoured recently in Nairobi with the Africa Region Food Security Leadership award for playing a key role in fighting the viral disease to save Africa's maize crop through his decade-long work.

The award was presented by Alice Murage, Acting Director General of Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation, and Prof. Theophyllus Mutui, Managing Director of Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service Organisation in Nairobi.

MLN, caused by the combination of two viruses, triggered a havoc in Eastern African countries since 2011 due to its potential to devastate the crop within three weeks.

Food security threat

What began as a deep farm crisis soon turned out to be a threat to food security as well as seed trade as the disease spread fast. The countries then managed to put in a disease management system, with the coming together of several institutions, policy makers and scientists.

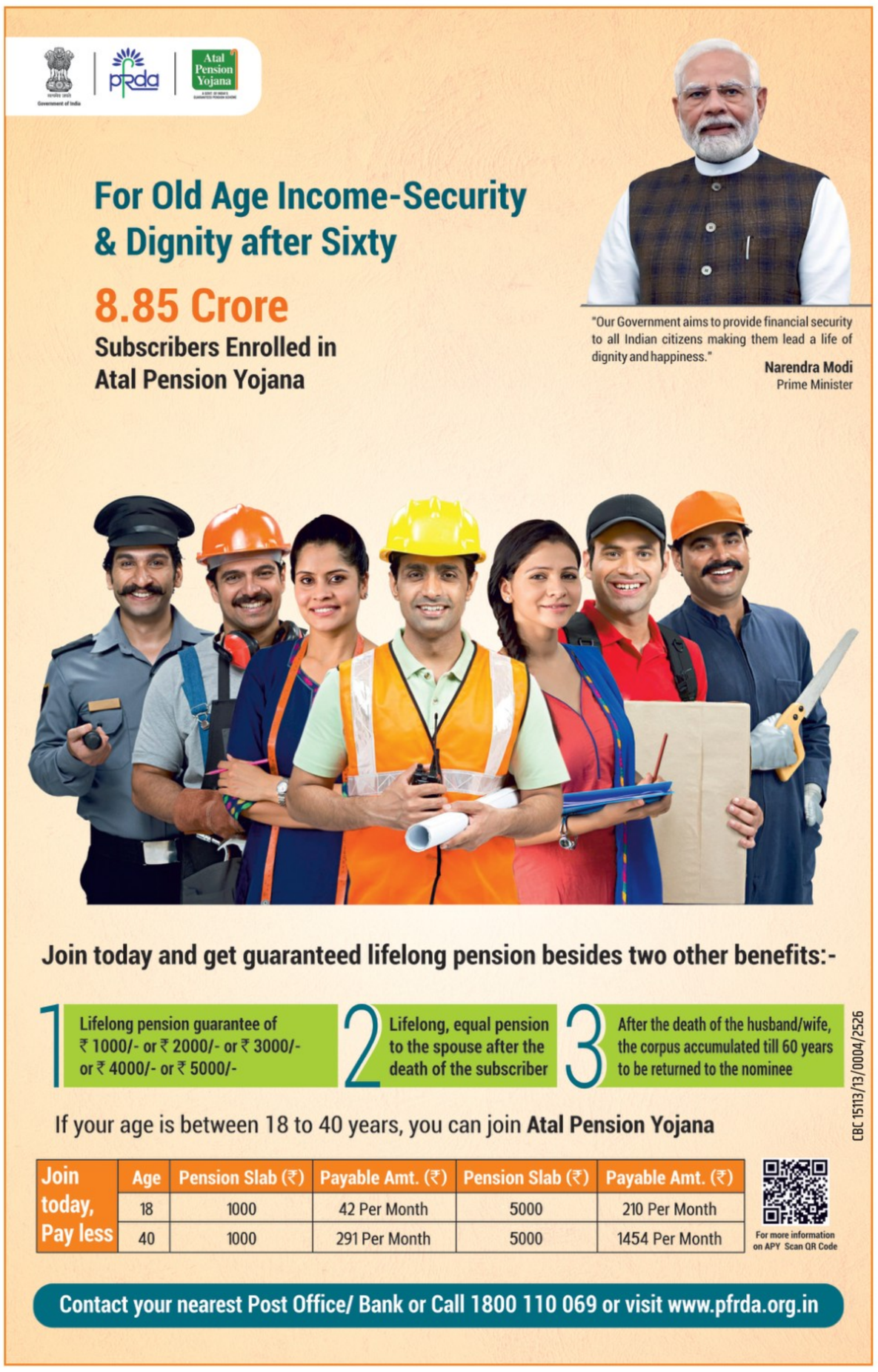
"I shifted to Africa in 2015 with the specific intention of working on this disease. I joined the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre, which is an international agricultural research organization, that was working to check the spread of this disease," Mr. Suresh told *The Hindu*.

"The disease was so lethal in terms of impact that Kenya alone had suffered a loss of $1.85 million due to the crop devastation. The tropical weather had made it convenient for the disease to survive and spread fast. While it had spread to several East African countries, there was a dire need to prevent it from spreading to other African countries," he pointed out.

None of the commercial maize varieties in Africa had genetic resistance to this disease. Hence there was a dire need to develop disease-resistant varieties.

Systems in place

"As the disease was spreading through seeds, we had to test the seeds and also ensure that they were disease free. There was a need to put in a strong quarantine ensure that the disease does not spread to other African countries through seeds. Above all, there was a need for a strong surveillance system. The good thing is that we were able to achieve this with the involvement of scientists, policy makers, farmers and others. A massive work was taken up as 2.80 lakh germ plasms of maize were tested using latest technologies and 20 disease-resistant hybrid varieties were developed," explained the 55-year-old scientist.



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Officials running a mafia to extract bribes for issuing e-khatas: Ashok

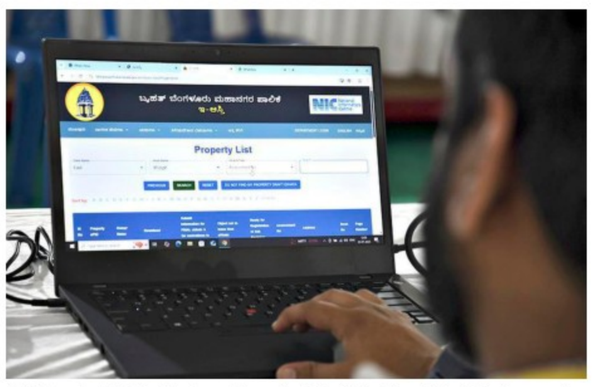
BJP says all major infrastructure projects in the city have come to a grinding halt owing to a shortage of funds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP on Tuesday accused the ruling Congress of "systemic governance failure in Bengaluru", alleging large-scale corruption in the e-khata system operated by five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

Speaking during a debate on Bengaluru development in the Legislative Assembly, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok claimed that city corporation officials were running a "mafia" to extract bribes for issuing e-khatas, even targeting property owners who had duly paid taxes. He alleged that in some cases, officials initiated auction proceedings despite tax compliance.

Mr. Ashok criticised Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's "Brand Bengaluru" initiative, stating that corruption within the system had undermined governance. He presented documents in the House to counter Mr. Shivakumar's claim that no bribery had occurred under the Congress government.



BJP leader R. Ashok slams Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's 'Brand Bengaluru' initiative, stating that corruption within the system had undermined governance. FILE PHOTO

Citing specific instances, Mr. Ashok alleged that in HBR Layout, a property owner was forced to pay bribes in instalments to secure an e-khata. At the same time, similar demands of up to ₹50,000 were reported in Devanahalli. He claimed that private intermediaries were charging ₹30,000 to ₹40,000 per property to facilitate approvals.

The BJP leader further highlighted persistent civic issues, including pothole-ridden roads, poor waste management, and inadequate infrastructure. Despite claims of significant expenditure, he alleged that road repairs remain incomplete and garbage disposal systems are ineffective, with thousands of tonnes of waste left unmanaged daily.

Financial crunch

Raising financial concerns, Mr. Ashok said the GBA/city corporations face a severe resource crunch, with revenues insufficient to meet salary and operational expenses, leaving the city ill-prepared for emergencies such as floods.

He flagged delays in issuing occupancy certificates (OCs), noting that nearly four lakh buildings remain unused. Questioning the approval process, he asked why construction permissions were granted if OCs could not be issued later.

Works halted

Highlighting a shortage of funds, Mr. Ashok said several key infrastructure projects in Bengaluru – including the Ejipura flyover, Ullal grade separator, Rajarajeshwari Nagar junction, and Kengeri Outer Ring Road – have come to a standstill. He alleged that, despite government claims of adequate funding, payments to contractors have been delayed, resulting in work stoppages. He cited a contractor's letter to the GBA complaining of pending dues.

He criticised the slow rollout of welfare schemes, stating that initiatives such as the distribution of push-carts and ironing boxes for self-employment have not been implemented since the government assumed office.

He further claimed that although the government announced an allocation of ₹7,000 crore to ₹8,000 crore for Bengaluru, only about ₹3,000 crore has been released so far. Referring to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Budget proposal to raise ₹48,000 crore through bonds, Mr. Ashok argued that merely creating new corporations is insufficient and called for greater financial support for the city.

'Govt. plans to close Jakkur flying training school to develop club for legislators'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of Opposition R. Ashok on Tuesday alleged in the Legislative Assembly that the ruling Congress government is planning to shut down Bengaluru's only Government Flying Training School (GFTS) at Jakkur to develop an exclusive club for MPs, legislators, and senior bureaucrats.

Participating in a debate on Bengaluru's development, he claimed that a senior IAS officer had proposed the idea of converting the GFTS land into an executive club in consultation with a developer from Rajasthan. He further alleged that such a move could pave the way for real estate interests to construct high-rise buildings in the area.

Mr. Ashok noted that the aviation training school was established on 214 acres of land in Jakkur in 1950, originally granted by the erstwhile Mysore rulers, with the foundation stone laid by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. He added that a similar proposal during an earlier Congress regime had been scrapped by the BJP government but was now being revived, with discussions reportedly under way to shift the school to Mysuru.

The aviation training school was established on 214 acres of land in Jakkur in 1950. SUDHAKARA JAIN

During the discussion, Energy Minister K.J. George said he had written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah suggesting that the GFTS land could instead be used to develop a major sports complex, similar to the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Mr. Ashok also cited past remarks by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who had earlier opposed the idea of using the GFTS land for an executive club.

Examine ill-effects of Conocarpus trees before planting: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It has been pointed out that Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have prohibited the planting of Conocarpus saplings

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday directed the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to consider the ill-effects of planting saplings of Conocarpus trees, which cause serious respiratory illness, as has been highlighted in a PIL petition before taking up any future plantation of saplings of this species.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha issued the direction while disposing of a petition filed by Sharanu M, a city-based advocate.

CEC recommendation

It has been pointed out in the petition that Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh have already prohibited the planting of saplings of Conocarpus species after the Supreme Court-appointed committee recommended a nationwide ban on planting saplings of this species.

The committee had said that during the flowering season, Conocarpus trees release pollen, which may aggravate respiratory conditions such as asthma, rhinitis, and other allergic reactions, particularly in children and the elderly. The 'deep and aggressive root system' system of this tree can extract significant amounts of groundwater, impacting nearby vegetation and water availability, the report had stated.

It has been alleged in the petition that though the GBA had given contract for planting native trees, many contractors have planted Conocarpus species in several areas.

While directing the GBA to consider the issues raised by the petitioner, the Bench said that it does not consider apposite to pass any order on petitioner's plea for removing the already planted saplings of this species while leaving it open to the authorities to take appropriate decision.

Khandre visits home of trainee veterinarian killed in hippo attack at Shivamogga

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Tuesday visited the residence of trainee veterinarian Sameeksha Reddy, who was killed in a hippopotamus attack at Tyavarekoppa Tiger and Lion Safari in Shivamogga last week.

The Minister, who visited Sameeksha's residence in Sakalavara, near Anekal, offered condolences to her family members. Mr. Khandre noted that a request was made by Sameeksha's parents Dhruvakumar and Shailaja Reddy to build a memorial in their daughter's name. He said that this request will be examined.

"The family has requested that the compensation amount given to her be instead used to build a memorial in their daughter's name. There has also been a suggestion to name an elephant after her. All these matters will be examined," he said.

Mr. Khandre said that at present, there are no written protocols from either the Centre or the State government regarding the treatment of wildlife by veterinarians in zoos.

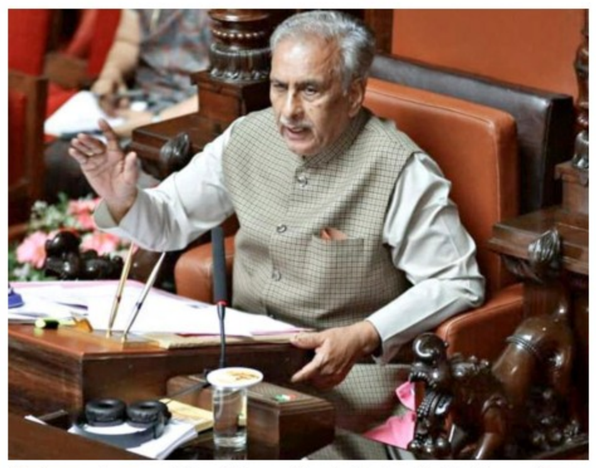
"In this regard, I have instructed officials to immediately formulate appropriate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which should also include the safety of women veterinarians and all medical staff," Mr. Khandre said.

He said that Sameeksha was compassionate towards wildlife and that she had recently treated a leopard. "With her death, the State has lost a young veterinarian. Despite their grief, the family has given us several suggestions. I have assured them that steps will be taken to resolve all these problems," Mr. Khandre said.

Green initiative

Sun's power: Solar panels that were installed on the Vidhana Soudha premises in Bengaluru on Tuesday present a unique look. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Council Chairman warns of action


Chairman Basavaraj Horatti speaking in the Legislative Council in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Reminding the government of his March 25 deadline for furnishing replies to questions raised by members in the Legislative Council, Chairman Basavaraj Horatti on Tuesday warned that action would follow in cases of non-compliance. He directed the government to ensure adherence to his order.

Raising the issue, JD(S) member S.L. Bhoje Gowda said many questions remained unanswered each day, alleging that officials were taking the House lightly. With the session nearing its end, departments were still seeking 10 to 15 days, he said, adding that directions Chair had not yielded results.

Congress member Puttanna urged the Chair to summon erring officials before the House and order suspension, saying firm action was needed to send a message.

Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said replies to questions from the Belagavi session were still pending and expressed concern that current questions too may not be answered, calling for stringent action.

Responding, Mr. Horatti asked the Floor leader, the Leader of the Opposition, chief whips of both sides and JD(S) leaders to meet him after the House proceedings in the evening with details of pending replies. He said he would not allow himself to be seen as an ineffective Chairman.

Karnataka saw over 6,800 pedestrian deaths in three years, finds data

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Karnataka recorded 6,844 pedestrian deaths between 2022 and 2024, according to data tabled in the Rajya Sabha by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

A year-wise analysis of the data shows that pedestrian fatalities have remained consistently high. In 2022, the State reported 2,105 deaths, which rose sharply to 2,418 in 2023 before slightly declining to 2,321 in 2024 (provisional). However, data for 2025 was not provided in the reply.

Across India, pedestrian deaths increased from 32,825 in 2022 to 35,221 in 2023 and further to 36,526 in 2024 (provisional), indicating that pedestrian safety remains a critical challenge nationwide.

Safety norms

In his reply to the Rajya Sabha recently, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari stated that road development, particularly on National Highways, is carried out in accordance with the Indian Roads Congress guidelines, including IRC:103-2022, which focuses on pedestrian facilities.

"Pedestrian infrastructure – such as pedestrian underpasses, footpaths, foot-over bridges, and pedestrian crossings – is provided based on detailed surveys and site requirements as per IRC:103-2022 'Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities' to ensure pedestrian safety," he said.

Cities like Bengaluru continue to struggle with pedestrian safety issues such as encroached or discontinuous footpaths, inadequate crossings, and poor enforcement of traffic rules. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

"Based on the category of road and traffic volume, various traffic calming measures such as transverse bar markings, rumble strips, raised pedestrian crossings, speed tables, etc. are adopted for speed management to ensure the safety of pedestrians alongside vehicle mobility. Further, road safety audit is conducted on all National Highways (NHs) at the design, construction, and pre-opening stage of National Highway projects as well as on existing NHs for ensuring safety of pedestrians and other vulnerable road users," Mr. Gadkari added.

Pedestrian deaths

2022	2,105
2023	2,418
2024 (Provisional)	2,321
Total (2022–2024)	6,844

Source: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

'Safer streets'

Cities like Bengaluru continue to struggle with pedestrian safety issues such as encroached or discontinuous footpaths, inadequate crossings, and poor enforcement of traffic rules.

Transport expert M.N. Srihari said, "Reducing pedestrian deaths requires a shift in how cities are designed. Authorities must ensure continuous footpaths, safer crossings at regular intervals, and strict speed enforcement, especially in urban areas like Bengaluru, where pedestrian movement is high."

He added that adopting a "complete streets" approach, where pedestrians are prioritised alongside vehicles and conducting regular safety audits can significantly reduce fatalities.

Design shift

Speaking about pedestrian safety on highways, where people often cross high-speed corridors due to the lack of proper fencing or foot overbridges, Mr. Srihari said, "Preventing pedestrian deaths on highways requires a fundamental shift in design and enforcement."

He said authorities like NHAI must move beyond vehicle-centric planning and adopt a 'safe systems' approach. "This means building continuous service roads, installing well-lit pedestrian underpasses or foot overbridges at regular intervals, and ensuring safe crossing points near habitations. No highway should cut through communities without providing safe, accessible pedestrian infrastructure," he explained.

22 Indira Canteens in State await inauguration since six months, says Minister

Rahim Khan expresses hope that the facilities will be opened within this month

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 22 Indira Canteens across the State have remained unopened for the last six months despite completion of construction, as local legislators are yet to fix dates for inauguration, Municipal Administration Minister Rahim Khan informed the Legislative Council on Tuesday.

Replying to BJP member K.S. Naveen, the Minister said the Indira Canteen scheme was a flagship initiative of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. At present, 346 canteens are operational in the State, while 15 are under construction, he said.

At present, 346 canteens are operational in the State, while 15 are under construction. FILE PHOTO

Have written to MLAs

Although the construction of 22 canteens has been completed, they have not yet been inaugurated because local MLAs have not provided their availability, according to the Minister. He said that he had personally written to them, urging an early inauguration. He expressed hope that the facilities would be opened within this month.

Raising the issue, Mr. Naveen questioned the award of contracts to Excel Precast Solutions Private Limited, stating that the firm had been given contracts both in 2017 and again in 2023 for the second phase involving 186 canteens, with exemption under provisions of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act.

He alleged that the company had since shut down, and said awarding contracts to the same firm twice under exemption provisions raised concerns.

Responding, Mr. Khan said the company had participated in the bidding process in 2023 and was executing works under the second phase.

Intervening, Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh defended the decision, saying the contract had been awarded based on eligibility, and the member was relying on unverified information. He said officials could accompany the member to the company's office for clarification.

The Minister added that the construction of Indira Canteens required expertise and that contracts had been awarded to qualified agencies accordingly.

'No commercial activity will be permitted within 100 m radius of heritage buildings'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

No commercial activity or construction of multi-storey buildings will be permitted within a 100-metre radius of heritage structures across the State, Urban Development and Town Planning Minister Byrathi Suresh said in the Legislative Council on Tuesday, warning that violations would invite legal action and removal.

Replying to Congress member K. Shivakumar, the Minister said an area extending 100 m from the boundary of a protected monument is treated as a prohibited zone, while a further 200 m is classified as a regulated zone. Any unauthorised construction within these limits would be dealt with as per law, Mr. Suresh said.

Minister Byrathi Suresh speaking in the Legislative Council in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Suresh said district-level heritage conservation committees headed by Deputy Commissioners were periodically reviewing the condition of such structures, and decisions on regulating activities around them would be based on their recommendations. Financial assistance has been provided for conservation efforts, he said.

Referring to Mysuru, he said the government had taken note of the dilapidated condition of several heritage structures, including the Lansdowne Building, Devaraja Market, Vanivilas Market, and Mandi Mohalla Market. A proposal to demolish and reconstruct the Lansdowne Building has been stayed by the Supreme Court of India, and action will depend on its order.

He pointed out that Deputy Commissioners have been authorised to utilise available funds for repair and restoration of heritage buildings.

Earlier, Mr. Shivakumar urged the government to take responsibility for protecting privately owned heritage structures as well, pointing out that many were being demolished for multi-storey developments.

He said the number of heritage buildings in Mysuru had declined from about 200 to around 100, and called for property tax exemption and enhanced funding support for conservation.

'MSME job portal under consideration'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government will discuss with officials the possibility of creating a portal for unemployed youth to share their details and access job opportunities in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), Minister for Small Industries and Public Enterprises Sharanabasappa Darshanapur said in the Legislative Council on Tuesday.

Replying to Congress member Ramoji Gowda, the Minister said that currently there was no proposal before the department to launch an MSME employment portal. However, he said a meeting involving officials and the member would be convened to deliberate on the issue and consider the proposal. He clarified that the department does not have any scheme to provide incentives to MSMEs for hiring local unemployed candidates through government-backed digital platforms.

Earlier, Mr. Ramoji Gowda said MSMEs provide employment to a large number of people, but information on available jobs in the sector is not easily accessible. He noted that private online portals charge substantial fees for registration, and urged the government to create a dedicated platform where job seekers can upload their profiles. Such a portal, he said, would help industries identify suitable candidates while offering job aspirants a transparent avenue for employment opportunities.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No:BDA/EE/HPD-2/TEN/T-156-158/2025-26 Date: 24.03.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)

Bangalore Development Authority has invited tender for Improvement works of Kommaghatta (NPKL) Housing Project Phase 1, 2 & 3 **(1)** BDA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT234 **(2)** BDA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT235 **(3)** BDA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 236

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **25.03.2026 (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid enquiries: **27.03.2026, 3.00 P.M. (3)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **02.04.2026, 4.00 P.M. (4)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **04.04.2026 after 4.30 P.M.**

Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-2 of BDA during office hours.

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer, HPD-2, BDA, Bengaluru

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

E-Open Tender Notice No.:- S/RWP/E/2025-26/24 dated: 23.03.2026, Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "e-Open Tender"**, through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in**, for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs., **SN :** 1, **Tender No. :** 02265060, **Short Description of item :** Design, Manufacturing, Supply of one (01) Number of 10 tones electric oberhead travelling Crane, **Quantity :** 01 Nos, **SN :** 2, **Tender No. :** 02265060, **Short Description of item :** 5 years Comprehensive AMC post commissioning warranty with Lifting Magnet and Major Electrical and Mechanical Parts, **Quantity :** 01 Nos, **Date of Tender Closing/Opening :** 16.04.2026 at 14:00 Hrs., 1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in**. 2. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including **Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation** with respect to the above tender.

For PCMM/RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2025-26/127

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Doddanekkundi Division,
opposite to Phoenix mall, ITPL main road, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru - 560 048

No.BECC/EE/DNK/TN/09/2025-26 **Dated: 23-03-2026**

The Executive Engineer, Doddanekkundi Division invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the work details in the table given below. The Tenderers shall be registered in CPWD/KPWD /Railways /MES / any State or Central Govt. organization. Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Amount put to tender in lakhs/EMD amount in Rs./Category
1	Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains and other Allied Works of Arterial and Sub-Arterial Roads in Garudacharpalya Ward in Garudacharpalya Sub-Division Doddanekundi Division. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.23.38 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs.23,400/-.** Category **: Cat-II(A)**
2	Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains and other Allied Works of Arterial and Sub-Arterial Roads in Bharath Aikya and Kundalahalli Ward in Garudacharpalya Sub-Division in Doddanekundi Division. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.24.78 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs.24,800/-.** Category **:ST.**
3	Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains and other Allied Works of Arterial and Sub-Arterial Roads in Priyadarshini Ward in Doddanekundi Sub Division of Doddanekundi Division. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.50.53 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs.1,02,000/-.** Category **:Others.**
4	Desilting of ward roads and engaging tipper and laboures in Garudacharpalya Ward in Garudacharpalya Sub-Division of Doddanekundi division. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.84.72 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs.1,70,000/-.** Category **:Others.**
5	Desilting of ward roads and engaging tipper and laboures in Bharath Aikya Ward in Garudacharpalya Sub-Division of Doddanekundi division. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.83.64 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs. 84,000/-.** Category **:SC.**
6	Desilting of ward roads and engaging tipper and laboures in Kundalahalli Ward in Garudacharpalya Sub-Division of Doddanekundi division. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.84.38 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs. 1,69,000/-.** Category **:Others.**
7	Desilting of ward roads and engaging tipper and laboures in Doddanekundi Ward in Doddanekundi Sub-Division of Doddanekundi division. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.84.58 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs. 1,70,000/-.** Category **:Others.**
8	Desilting of ward roads and engaging tipper and laboures in Priyadarshini Ward in Doddanekundi Sub-Division of Doddanekundi division. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.83.43 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs. 83,500/-.** Category **:Cat-II(A).**
9	Desilting of ward roads and engaging tipper and laboures in Ashwathnagar Ward in Doddanekundi Sub-Division of Doddanekundi division. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.84.23 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs.1,68,500/-.** Category **:Others.**
10	Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desilting of Drains and other Allied Works of Arterial and Sub-Arterial Roads in Doddanekundi Ward and Ashwath Nagar ward in Doddanekundi Sub-Division of Doddanekundi Division. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.148.42 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs.2,23,000/-.** Category **:Others.**
11	Filling of Potholes in Garudacharpalya ward, Bharath Aikya ward, Kundalahalli ward, Doddanekundi ward, PriyaDarshini ward and Ashwath Nagar ward, in Garudacharpalya and Doddanekkundi Sub-Divisions of Doddanekundi Division. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.228.89 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs.3,43,500/-.** Category **:Others.**
12	Annual Maintenance of Storm Water Drains in Garudacharpalya Sub-Division and Doddanekundi Sub-Division of Doddanekundi Division. Amount put to Tender : **Rs.197.13 Lakhs**, EMD (in Rupees): **Rs.2,96,000/-.** Category **:Others.**

Calendar of events:
1. Last date of submission queries **: 30-03-2026 within 11.00 A.M**
2. Date & time for Pre Bid Meeting **: 30-03-2026 at 3.00 P.M**
3. Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders **: 04-04-2026 Upto 4:00 P.M.**
4. Date & Time for Opening Technical bid **: 06-04-2026 at 4.30 P.M**
5. Date & Time for Opening Financial bid **: 07-04-2026 at 4.00 P.M**
6. Validity of Tenders **: 180 Days**

Bid document may be referred for other terms and conditions and any Corrigendum/Addendum will be published & notified only through **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** or Contact KPP Portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Doddanekkundi Division, BECC

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KALYAN KARNATAKA REGION DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Opp. Aiwan-E-Shahi, Kalaburagi-585102, Karnataka
Phone No: 08472-256767 Fax No: 08472-227527 hkadbgulb@gmail.com

No. KKRDB/TECH/3rd party/2025-26 Date:23/03/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement System)

The Secretary, KKRDB, Kalaburagi hereby invites separate Technical and Financial Bids for **"Empanelment of Third Party Consultants for Quality Assurance Audit and Control of Development works funded by KKRDB in Bellary & Vijayanagar Districts". Call-3** Through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka, Firms willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned e-procurement portal.

The tender document with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. EMD is **Rs. 8,00,000/-**

Amount put to tender : **Rs. 5,35,00,000/-**

Event & Date : 1) Downloading of RFP from E-Portal starts from: **23/03/2026**, 2) Last Date and Time for Submitting Queries: **31/03/2026 up to 5:30 pm**, 3) Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting (Online): **01/04/2026 at 12:00 pm**, 4) Last Date for receipt of Technical and Financial Proposals: **06/04/2026 till 4.30 pm**, 5) Date of Opening of Technical Proposal: **07/04/2026 at 4.35 pm,** 6) Date of Opening of Financial Proposal: **08/04/2026 at 5.30 pm**

Sd/- Deputy Secretary, Kalyan Karnataka Region Development Board Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1204/KSMC&A/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Division: Yadgir.
GSTIN:29BLR002252F1DR

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-3/e-Tender/2025-26/3581, Dated: 24.03.2026

Short Term e-Tender Notification

1) Details of works: On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-4 Karnataka Public Works Department invited item Rate Tender under KPPP Portal in Two Cover System from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following works Under KRDCL for the year 2025-26 Under Yadgir Taluka-29580/CALL-2 Total 1 (One) works Tender Called **2) Amount Put to Tender:** Maximum Rs.300.00 Lakhs **3) Contractor Eligible Details**: Civil Class-II & Above **4) Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details:** Tender Fee, EMD & Period as per kppp portal, **5) Last Date & Time for Tender Pre-Bid Meeting:** 30.03.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **6) Last Date & Time for Tender queries/ Clarification:** 01.04.2026 (Upto 17.30 hrs) **7) Last Date & Time for Reciept of the tender in e-KPPP portal:** 04.04.2026 (Upto 16.00 hrs) **8) Date & Time of Opening of the Tender/Technical Bid:** 06.04.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **9) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid:** 08.04.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **10) For More Details Contact:** Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division: Yadgir. **11) Website Address:** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

NOTE: Any Corrections / Changes will be updated in the kppp Portal only

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Yadgir.

DIP/YDG/607/KSMC&A/2025-26

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-30/1862/2025-26 **Date: 24.03.2026**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors registered in KCEI who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Re-conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Basavakalyana, Humanabhadh Industrial Area, Bidar District. (2nd Call).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **08.04.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6433/NR/2025-26

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

SCIENCE DAY OBSERVED

Carmel Academy, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru observed National Science Day with enthusiasm, highlighting the importance of science in everyday life. The celebration featured a well-presented skit by students, conveying scientific ideas and the value of curiosity and innovation. The programme included a segment on the significance of National Science Day and the need to develop a scientific temper among young learners. Students participated actively, showcasing confidence, creativity and teamwork. The event emphasised that science is a way of thinking and understanding the world, inspiring students to think critically and appreciate its role in daily life.

GRADUATION DAY CELEBRATED

Jubilee School, Vijinapura, Bengaluru celebrated their 33rd Graduation Day with joy and pride. The function was presided over by Sri. Muraleedharan Nair, President, Kerala Samajam Dooravaninagar, with CA Nainan P. Oommen as Chief Guest. Principal Mrs. Kala A. delivered the welcome address. The ceremony included the investiture, speeches by Sri. Dennis Paul, Sri. Vijayan M. P., Sri. Chandrasekhara Kurup K. and Dr. Triveni, and presentation of mementos. Students and parents shared experiences, followed by a dance performance. Students took the pledge and sang the graduation song, receiving blessings from the management, teachers and parents.

SANKALPA DIWAS

Rashtrotthana Vidya Kendra, Banashankari, Bangalore-60 commemorated Sankalpa Diwas with solemnity and cultural elegance for Classes 10 and 12. Prof. Dr. Jayakara Shetty M., Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, attended as Chief Guest. The programme began with Deepa Prajwalana and invocation. Shri Vasanth Kumar Guruji delivered the keynote address, while Smt. Nandaji, Pradhanacharyaji, guided the proceedings. Class 9 students presented cultural items. Students, in traditional attire, took a solemn oath holding diyas and received mementos with their parents. The Chief Guest highlighted national responsibility, and the event concluded with the Shanti Mantra, honouring teachers' dedication.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai:
Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

Higher Education Dept. cancels event at KSOU on Deendayal Upadhyaya

The department says it is evident that the rental amount for the programme was collected from the organisation concerned after the issue was raised during Zero Hour in the Legislative Council

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Responding to the show-cause notice, Vice-Chancellor Sharanappa V. Halase had sought to clarify that the conference was not an official programme of the KSOU. FILE PHOTO

The Department of Higher Education on Tuesday cancelled the three-day conference on Hindutva ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya scheduled to be held on the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) premises in Mysuru from Wednesday after rejecting the reply given by Vice-Chancellor Sharanappa V. Halase.

Hours after Prof. Halase claimed that the 'Ekatma Manav Darshan - Bharat's Worldview' was a "private programme" and the KSOU had merely rented its convocation hall to the organisers for the event, N. Kumar, Deputy Secretary to the Government (Universities), in a letter to the V-C, noted that the invitation card for the programme mentioned the university as the "Hosting University," and carried the university's logo, while Prof. Halase himself was presiding over the programme. "Therefore, there are no valid grounds to accept the explanation furnished in your written statement," the letter said.

The 'Ekatma Manav Darshan - Bharat's Worldview', commemorating 60 years of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya's lectures, organised by Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation and Prajna Pravah on the KSOU campus, had sparked a row with the State government opposing the event citing protocol violation and issuing a show cause notice to Prof. Halase.

Rent paid later

The letter by the Higher Education Department referred to documents, apparently on the payment of rent for the venue by the organisers to KSOU, and said it is evident that the rental amount for the programme was collected from the organisation concerned after the issue was raised during Zero Hour in the Legislative Council. "Although the programme is stated to be private and outside the purview of the university, no justification has been provided for the use of the university's logo".

As the objective and subject matter of the conference are also found to be inconsistent with the aims and objectives of the university, granting permission for a private programme in violation of government guidelines, rules, and protocol cannot be accepted, the government said before cancelling the programme with immediate effect.

Earlier, when asked by *The Hindu* whether he was attending the programme, Prof. Halase said the organisers had invited him to the conference 'out of courtesy'. As Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, who is also the Chancellor of the university, had been invited for the programme, the V-C said protocol demands that he receive the Governor. Responding to the show-cause notice, Prof. Halase had sought to clarify that the conference was not an official programme of the KSOU. "The role of the university is limited solely to providing the venue on rental basis," he said.

KSOU possesses one of the most modern and spacious auditoriums in the region with a large seating capacity, and the university, which is a self-financing institution, permits the use of this facility on a rental basis for conferences, seminars, symposiums, and other academic activities for "revenue generation and optimal utilisation of resources", he said.

Responding to use of the university's emblem on the communication sent by the organisers to the Department of Collegiate Education, inviting participation from the faculty, Prof. Halase said the logo on the invitation was used only to facilitate the participation of KSOU's PhD scholars, students, and faculty. "It is customary for external organisers using the university's facilities to extend invitations to our academic community, and occasionally invite the Vice-Chancellor as chief guest," he added.

Snehamayi Krishna moves HC challenging clean chit to CM, wife Parvathi in MUDA case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Social activist Snehamayi Krishna has moved the High Court of Karnataka challenging the order passed by a special court in accepting the 'B' report, filed by the Lokayukta police giving a clean chit to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife Parvathi B.M and two others on the allegation of illegalities and corruption in allotment of 14 alternative sites worth ₹56 crore to Ms. Parvathi by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

A special court of sessions for criminal cases against former and present MLAs and MPs on January 28 had accepted the 'B' report, in which the Lokyukta police had said that the allegations of corruption and criminal conspiracy against Mr. Siddaramaiah, Ms. Parvathi, her brother Mallikarjuna Swamy and Devaraju J., from whom Mr. Swamy had purchased around three acres of land on being denotified by MUDA. The petition is yet to come up for hearing before the High Court.

It has been contended in Mr. Krishna's petition that the special court "committed a jurisdictional error in selectively accepting the 'B' report only against these four persons, while simultaneously directing further investigation into the actions of MUDA officials arising out of the very same transaction".

Claiming that the special court's order contains a fundamental inconsistency as the special court on the one hand accepts the findings in the investigation report that scheme of allotment of compensatory sites under 50:50 ratio scheme resulted in substantial loss to MUDA and the State exchequer, even in allotment of 14 sites to Ms. Parvathi, and on the other hand concludes that no offence is made out against the primary beneficiaries, Ms. Parvathi and others. The special court did not consider the materials submitted by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), it has been contended in the petition.

While seeking rejection of the 'B' report, Mr. Krishna has sought a direction from the High Court to order an investigation from an independent agency by considering the investigation reports of ED, which is yet to file a conclusive report on its investigation.

Special Cabinet meet unlikely to take call on internal quota ahead of bypolls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government is unlikely to disclose the proceedings of the Special Cabinet or the decision taken, if any, on the internal reservation scheduled to be held on Friday. Speculation is rife that the Special Cabinet meeting may be put off in view of the Model Code of Conduct prevailing in the State ahead of byelections to Bagalkot and Davangere South constituencies.

"The government may choose not to disclose details of deliberations or about decisions that may be taken in view of the Model Code of Conduct in place for bypolls," a source said. Multiple sources insisted that, though the model code is in place, Cabinet meeting would be held, and details may not be revealed. A decison could be deferred. The State government is under intense pressure from caste groups seeking internal reservation or opposing it. While Dalit Left (Madiga) is seeking internal reservation, the Dalit Right (Holeya) and touchable castes of Lambani, Bhovi, Korama, and Koracha are opposed to providing internal reservation within 15%. Amid pressure from the job aspirants, the government is looking to fill 56,432 posts with 15% reservation and without internal quota.

According to a senior Minister, the Cabinet could discuss the issue but may defer taking a decision on it until after the byelections are over. "In the current form, the internal reservation matrix that has been fixed for 17% cannot be mechanically fixed for 15%. There are a total of eight cases in court - four each on internal quota, and against enhancing reservation to SCs and STs from 15% to 17% and 3% to 7%, respectively, that have resulted in breaching of the SC-mandated cap of 50% on reservation".

Bill seeking to prevent transfer of teachers to non-teaching posts passed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday passed the Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Teachers) Amendment Bill, 2026, aimed at prioritising the filling of critical posts, particularly in pre-university (PU) colleges.

The Bill seeks to prevent the diversion of teachers to non-teaching roles and mandates that transfers be made first to identified critical posts. These include principals and lecturers in government PU colleges, and headmasters (HMs) and vice-principals in high schools.

The legislation classifies critical posts into three categories. Category 1 covers posts other than HMs and vice-principals in Karnataka Public Schools, Adarsha Vidyalayas, and PM SHRI schools. Category 2 includes similar posts in other schools and PU colleges with more than 250 students, or as per enrolment norms set by the government. Category 3 comprises HMs and vice-principals in institutions under Categories 1 and 2.

During the discussion, members across party lines emphasised the need to complete teacher transfers before the start of the academic year, increase recruitment, and ensure the availability of qualified teachers for English-medium education.

Land Donation Bill

The House also passed the Karnataka Government Educational Institution (Protection and Regularisation) Bill, 2026.

State to seek legal opinion to take action against Adani Group

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government will seek legal opinion on initiating criminal proceedings against Adani Group's firm ACC Ltd. over alleged dues of about ₹850 crore linked to a limestone mining lease in Chittapur taluk, Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy informed the Legislative Council on Tuesday.

Replying on behalf of Mines and Geology Minister S.S. Mallikarjun, he said the company has challenged the demand in court and the matter is under hearing. Given the dispute over the quantum of dues, the government would consult the Law Department and the Advocate-General before deciding on further action, including the possibility of criminal proceedings, he said.

Royalty recovery

The issue triggered a sharp exchange in the House, with members from both the ruling and the Opposition questioning the handling of royalty recovery and the continuation of quarry operations.

Raising the matter, Congress member K. Shivakumar, on behalf of party colleague Arathi Krishna, alleged that substantial dues remained unpaid even as mining activity continued. Ms. Krishna, in her written question, sought to know whether the lease period for the Kannur limestone block at Wadi in Kalaburagi had expired and, if so, what action had been taken against the company for "unauthorised" mining without paying the total dues of ₹850.21 crore towards royalty, rent, or penalty payable to the State government.

No action

BJP member C.T. Ravi echoed similar concerns, questioning the legal and procedural basis for allowing participation in bidding and continuation of operations despite pending dues. "Do your rules allow those with pending dues to participate? If such a provision exists, under which rule does it exist?" he asked, seeking clarity on recommendations of the High-Level committee, Law Department and concurrence of the Finance Department.

Responding, Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy maintained that no fresh licence had been granted and that the existing lease was continuing under court directions. Part payment had been made, he said, while the balance would be determined through legal proceedings.

He reiterated that recovery could not be enforced immediately as the dues themselves were under dispute. "Until recovery is possible, no further permission will be given," he said, adding that the government would act based on legal advice.

'Only 5% of households received mandated 100 days of employment under MGNREGA'

CAG REPORT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Even as the Congress government in Karnataka opposed any move to dilute the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) by the Centre, a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) flagged several shortcomings in the scheme's implementation in the State.

The CAG report, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday for the period 2019-20 to 2023-24, noted that only 5% of households received the mandated 100 days of employment.

Most households were provided just 1 to 30 days of work, while demand for employment did not exceed 48% of issued job cards during the audit period.

Contract management

The report highlighted irregularities in contract management, stating that outsourcing contracts were extended without fresh tenders, leading to higher service charges. It also pointed to violations in recruitment, where contract staff were hired without adhering to reservation norms, resulting in inadequate representation of women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and persons with disabilities.

Further, the audit found gaps in data systems, noting that NREGASoft lacked provisions to track employment demand and allocation for vulnerable groups such as nomadic tribes and HIV-positive individuals. Cross-verification with housing scheme records indicated their significant exclusion from the programme.

Serious financial irregularities were flagged, including fraudulent payments for completed or non-existent housing works, payments to ineligible beneficiaries, and fabrication of records in projects such as solid waste management, check dams, and social forestry.

Pendency rate

While ombudspersons had been appointed across districts, the report noted a high pendency rate of 59% in grievance disposal, with less than 20% of imposed penalties actually recovered.

The audit observed a decline in wage expenditure during 2022-23 and 2023-24, underutilisation of funds under the material component, and inadmissible administrative expenditure of ₹32.78 crore. Additionally, Aadhaar mapping remained incomplete for 3.11 lakh workers out of 84.98 lakh active workers as of March 2024, with ₹35.10 crore worth of transactions pending due to rejected payments.

The CAG observed irregularities such as printing of muster rolls without utilising NREGASoft and irregular payments on such manipulated muster rolls.

The State government has urged the Centre to scrap the "Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)" and restore MGNREGA in its original form to safeguard employment and livelihoods for rural workers.

Karnataka received less than 50% of funds allocated by Centre under JJM: Audit report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka received less than 50% of the funds allocated by the Centre under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), primarily due to poor utilisation of released funds, according to a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

The report, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, for the period 2019-20 to 2023-24, noted that the State received ₹11,189.37 crore – about 45% of the total allocation of ₹24,819.48 crore.

It attributed low fund utilisation to the reduced engagement of implementation support agencies. Spending on water quality monitoring and surveillance dropped sharply, from 50% in 2019-20 to just 2% in 2023-24, leading to infrastructure gaps such as inadequate water testing laboratories and equipment.

The audit further highlighted negligible community participation, with only ₹22.75 crore mobilised against an expected ₹1,594.90 crore.

Delays of three to nine months in submitting utilisation certificates and audited accounts contributed to the State not receiving the remaining central assistance.

The findings are seen as a setback for the State government, which has been criticising the Union government for insufficient fund release under the scheme, implemented by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

Against a target of 72.14 lakh households, tap water connections were provided to 47.62 lakh households (66%) as of November 2024. The shortfall was attributed to delays in tendering, execution of works without ensuring land availability, and slow approvals, the report said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar posing for a picture with the MLCs in front of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Speaker's announcement triggers speculation of leadership change

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader's announcement on Tuesday to the House of a photo session for all sitting members at 10 a.m. on Wednesday has triggered speculation about possible political developments, including a leadership change after the State Budget session.

Traditionally, such photo sessions are held during the final session of an Assembly's five-year tenure. The photo session is scheduled to take place in front of the majestic Vidhana Soudha on Wednesday.

However, an official from the Speaker's office said that there is nothing unusual about organising a photo session midway through the Assembly's term.

In contrast, the Legislative Council conducts photo sessions once every two years, as one-third of its 75 members retire biennially. A similar session for MLCs was held in front of the Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday.

17 MLCs hold meeting

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As speculation over leadership issue continues in Congress, party's Members of Legislative Council (MLCs), who met on Tuesday to discuss political developments have urged the party high command to address the issue at the earliest. Sources said that as many as 17 MLCs met at a hotel here over dinner, and consensus was that the confusion over leadership could hurt the party's prospects in local bodies elections.

The high command has been urged to set things straight as early as possible, sources said.

Three Vijayawada youth arrested over online terror links

Rajulapudi Srinivas
VIJAYAWADA

The accused had developed contacts with Islamic State sympathisers in other States

In a major operation, three youth who are reportedly followers of banned terror groups and had underwent training in terror operations, were arrested in Vijayawada.

The accused, who developed contacts with Islamic State (IS) activists in Telangana, Bihar, Karnataka, West Bengal, Delhi and other States, planned to execute terrorist activities.

On receiving information on their activities, the intelligence police of the NTR Commissionerate arrested the accused on Monday. They were identified as Mohammad Rehmatulla Sharif, Md. Danish and Mirza Sohail Baig, all natives of Vijayawada.

During investigation, it was revealed that they were attracted to the operations of the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and were in contact with the handlers in different States and countries.

"The sympathisers were following social media groups related to the IS and AQIS, and posted related content," a police officer said.

A case has been registered under various sections of UAPA and other charges.

Court cannot sit in judgment on a community's belief: TDB

Temple board files submissions in SC regarding entry of women of all ages into Sabarimala shrine; court is slated to hold review hearing from April 7; Kerala govt. had softened its stance on the issue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Spiritual stage: Pilgrims wait to ascend the sacred steps at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple. FILE PHOTO

The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), which manages the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, filed written submissions in the Supreme Court on Tuesday saying that beliefs and practices of a community have to be judged on the basis of the subjective belief of that community.

The submissions come ahead of the court's review hearing from April 7 on the entry of women of menstrual age into the shrine.

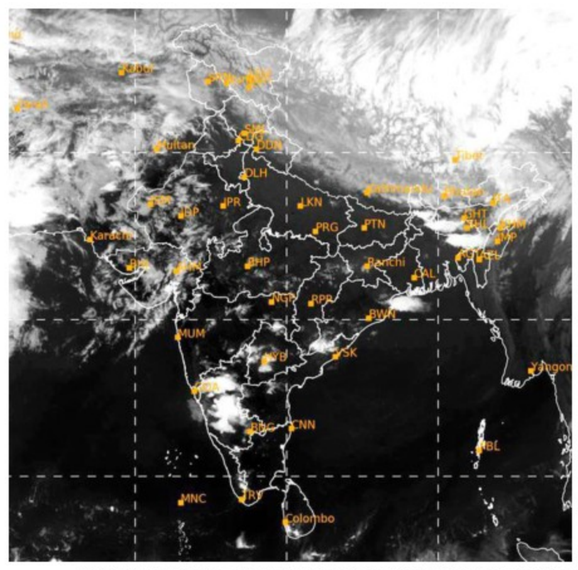
"The Supreme Court is bound to accept the belief of the community, and it is not for the court to sit in judgment on that belief," the TDB said.

Recently, the Kerala government had delicately moderated its earlier cast-iron stance in the Supreme Court in favour of entry of women of menstrual age into the shrine. The State government, in submissions filed before the Supreme Court on March 14, said a judicial review of whether the age-old restriction on entry for women between menarche and menopause was an essential religious practice must not be guided by either reason or sentiment alone. The State had said the court, instead, must assess whether the belief – that women of that age group should not appear before the temple deity, Lord Ayyappa in the celibate or *Naishtika Brahmachari* form – was a "genuine and conscientiously" held one.

The submissions of senior advocate A.M. Singhvi filed by advocate P.S. Sudheer for the TDB, said the limited question the top court could determine was whether a belief or practice of the community was in fact a part of its religion.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Konkan & Goa and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.3	19.0	Kozhikode	—	35.5	26.4
Ahmedabad	—	36.9	22.7	Kurnool	—	39.0	26.4
Aizawl	—	28.5	14.6	Lucknow	—	32.3	17.0
Allahabad	—	35.6	18.6	Madurai	—	38.0	24.1
Bengaluru	—	33.4	21.4	Mangaluru	—	33.5	25.2
Bhopal	—	34.4	17.8	Mumbai	—	36.6	24.6
Bhubaneswar	—	35.6	23.4	Mysuru	58	34.2	18.6
Chandigarh	—	29.4	14.6	New Delhi	—	31.7	16.6
Chennai	—	34.3	24.8	Patna	—	33.0	20.5
Coimbatore	—	35.8	23.6	Port Blair	—	31.9	24.3
Dehradun	—	27.5	15.0	Puducherry	—	32.2	24.9
Gangtok	13	13.1	11.0	Pune	—	38.7	23.2
Goa	—	33.6	25.4	Raipur	—	37.1	21.6
Guwahati	7	29.2	18.1	Ranchi	—	31.2	17.0
Hubballi	—	34.0	23.0	Shillong	—	18.4	8.4
Hyderabad	—	35.5	24.2	Shimla	—	21.2	10.0
Imphal	—	26.4	12.6	Srinagar	0.6	20.4	6.3
Jaipur	—	33.0	20.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	36.5	24.9
Kochi	—	32.4	27.2	Tiruchi	—	36.3	23.6
Kohima	—	17.8	10.5	Vijayawada	3.3	34.6	24.0
Kolkata	—	34.0	23.3	Visakhapatnam	—	33.2	25.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.56	..78	15	 62	...123	
Bengaluru	.20	..33	19	... 122	...135	
Chennai	.17	..10	30	 20	45	
Delhi	.19	..76	88	... 227	...277	
Hyderabad	...4	..17	..7	 51	...123	
Kolkata	...7	..62	28	 80	73	
Lucknow	...9	..36	47	... 145	...111	
Mumbai	...5	..91	..8	 80	...111	
Pune	..—	..90	63	... 119	...119	
Visakhapatnam	.11	..29	17	 34	71	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Aurangabad, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 382 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Law student refuses to remove post on SC

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUCHI

Asserting his right to free expression, A. Rishi Kumar, a final-year student of Tamil Nadu National Law University (TNNLU), has refused to take down a blog post criticising the Supreme Court's ban on a Class 8 NCERT civics textbook and its decision to blacklist its authors for their mention of judicial corruption.

Mr. Kumar also did not bow to pressure from the TNNLU to delete the article, titled *"The Supreme Court of India has no Spine"*, published in his personal Substack blog.

His stance elicited support and appreciation from his fellow students, and a statement of solidarity from the 2020-2025 alumni batch.

No disciplinary action

Speaking to *The Hindu* on Tuesday, Mr. Kumar said that he had resumed his classes and no disciplinary action has been taken, adding, "I had expected some criticism, but honestly, I did not expect it to go that far."

In the article, he wrote, "The Court has decided, in its grand old wisdom, that eighth graders, who are doing algebra and learning refractions, are simply too dumb to handle a basic civics chapter that spends fourteen pages praising the judiciary and two paragraphs acknowledging its flaws."

The student also criticised the apex court's decision to blacklist the three authors and bar them from all work associated with any publicly funded curriculum.

TNNLU registrar S.M. Balakrishnan said that an email had been sent last week to Mr. Kumar as an 'advisory' note, because of several threatening phone calls and emails from persons claiming to be lawyers from other States, urging the university to take action against him.

"We are not going to punish Mr. Kumar, as he wrote in his personal capacity. He is standing up for his constitutional values, and we respect that. There is nothing wrong with criticism, and the Supreme Court is not infallible," he said.

SC adjourns petitions in Nimisha Priya case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned petitions filed on behalf of Nimisha Priya, a nurse from Kerala facing execution in Yemen for the murder of a local man, sine die until any fresh development comes up.

A Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath was told by Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee that there has been no fresh progress to report. Senior advocate Raghenth Basant and advocate Subhash Chandran, appearing for the family of the nurse, also sought an adjournment.

The execution, which had been reportedly slated for July 16, 2025 had been postponed following diplomatic intervention by the Indian government and efforts by Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliyar, a prominent Kerala-based Islamic scholar.

Trimbak Municipal Council, Trimbakeshwar

Outward No.6024/2026 Date-24/03/2026

E-Tender Notice

Chief Officer, Trimbak Municipal Council, Trimbak, Tal.-Trimbakeshwar, Dist. - Nashik, State - Maharashtra invites bids in online form for Eleven (11) works of Development Works in Eleven Akhadas in Trimbak Municipal Council, under the Simhastha Kumbhmela works. The tender documents will be available on the website **www.mahatenders.gov.in** from 25/03/2026 to 02/04/2026 up to 05.00 PM. The last date for submission of tenders is **02/04/2026.**

Note: All necessary details, subsequent notices, and clarifications will be published online on the **www.mahatenders.gov.in** website.

Sd/-
Rahul Patil,
Chief Officer,
Trimbak Municipal Council

Sd/-
Triveni Tungar,
President,
Trimbak Municipal Council

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ

ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ./ಲೋ.ಇ.ವಿ.ಕಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ–1/ಮ.ಟೆಂಡರ.ಪ್ರ–35/2025–26/6006 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–03–2026

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ (Call-2) ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಸಂ: ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ./ಲೋ.ಇ.ವಿ,ಕಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ–1/ಟೆಂಡರ–35/2025–26/5604 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–03–2026

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖದ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ **Mitigation-8443-Deposite Contribution** ಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದ **CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALL AT KM. 20.00 (NEAR MUDANGI SCHOOL) OF TAVADI- GOKARNA GARIGAVALLI - MANJAGUNI-BELEKERE ROAD IN KUMTA PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32836/CALL-2 (RESERVED FOR Schedule Caste category)** ರೂ.60.67 ಲಕ್ಷದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರನ (Call-2) ದಿನಾಂಕದ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 30–03–2026 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 01–04–2026 16.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (3) ಟೆಂಡರನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 02–04–2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ (4) ಟೆಂಡರನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 04–04–2026 17.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1245/25-26 dt. 24.03.2026

KARNATAKA VETERINARY, ANIMAL & FISHERIES SCIENCES UNIVERSITY, BIDAR

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender No: KVAFSU/2025-26/IND0014 **Date: 18.03.2026**

Sub: Inviting short term tender for refurbishing of smart class rooms including related equipment's at Veterinary College, Bengaluru, Veterinary College, Bidar, Veterinary College, Shivamogga, Dairy Science College, Bengaluru and College of Fisheries, Mangaluru through E-Portal, Government of Karnataka (e-Proc-105).

University is inviting e-bidding on KPP Portal of Govt. of Karnataka for refurbishing of smart class rooms including related equipment's at various colleges under KVAFSU, Bidar. **Last date for applying is on 25.03.2026 before 17.00 Hrs.**

Tender No: KVAFSU/2025-26/IND0015 **Date: 20.03.2026**

Sub: Inviting short term tender for procurement of Goods/Equipment for IAH&VB, KVAFSU, Hebbal, Bengaluru, Veterinary College, Bengaluru & Veterinary College, Bidar through E-Portal, Government of Karnataka (eProc-101).

University is inviting e-bidding on KPP Portal of Govt. of Karnataka for procurement of goods and equipment's for KVAFS University, Bidar. **Last date for applying is on 04.04.2026 before 16.00 Hrs. Total cost of the tender Rs.94.47 Lakhs.**

E-Auction documents should be submitted electronically through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). For Further information please contact Tender Processing Cell, Regional Campus, KVAFSU, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560 024. **Phone: 9845313244, 9343999599** during office hours.

Sd/-
Co-Ordinator
Tender Processing Cell, KVAFSU

DIPR/CP/6413/MAA/2025-26

MYSORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MYSORE

(Government of Karnataka- Autonomous Institute)
Irwin Road, Mysore-570001, Telephone No:- +91-0821-2520512 (Off),2520803 (Fax),
Email- mmcrimysore@yahoo.com, website: www.mmcri.karnataka.gov.in

No.MMC&RI/Tender/05/2025-26 Date: 23.03.2026

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Invitation of Short Term Re-Tender for Transport & Disposal of Bio Medical Waste in Associated Hospitals and Purchase of Cathlab Surgicals items to Super Specilality Hospital of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru

The Short term Re-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 in Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru. The Tender documents has been download from E-procurement website: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D will be rejected

Sl No	Tender / Short term Re-Tender	Commence date of tender submission	Last date of tender submission	Tender Amount (Rs.Lakh)
1	Sup/Viva/98/2025-26 Transport & Disposal of Bio Medical Waste	24.03.2026	04.04.2026	50.00
2	Sup/Viva/82/2025-26 Purchase of Cathlab Surgicals items	24.03.2026	07.04.2026	80.00

If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

Sd/- Director and Dean
Mysore Medical College & Research Institute, Mysore

DIPR/MYSORE/Shirdi Sai/1877/2025-26

AMARAVATI GROWTH and INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED (AGICL)
PROJECT OFFICE, RAYAPUDI, THULLURU MANDAL, (A.P.)

E Procurement Tender Notice

NIT NO:130/ MAU61-USI0HB(OTH)/493/2025-HB, Dt: 23.03.2026,
Name of the works: Construction of Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy with Pile Foundation, Super Structure with RC Columns-Beams Framed Structure, Architectural Finishes, Internal Electrical & Plumbing works, HAVC works and IT works including External Electrical, Plumbing, Infrastructure Facilities, Internal Roads, for Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh. The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 28.03.2026 to 15.04.2026 up to 14.00 Hrs. Pre-Bid Meeting Date02.04.2026,Due date for submission of Bid 15.04.2026up to 15.00 Hrs, Technical bid opening 15.04.2026@16.00Hrs. For further details please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in and www.crda.ap.gov.in**

Sd/- Managing Director, **AGICL**, Project office **APCRDA**, Rayapudi

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

No. KPCL/2025-26/IND2533 **Date: 17-03-2026**

ABSTRACT AND NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Portal only)

Sealed Bids are invited in two cover system for the tender details can be downloaded from the KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, "Procurement of Composite body Portable fire extinguishers (Powder based & Foam based) for RTPS & BTPS".**

Further details can be had from: **Chief Engineer** (Thermal designs), KPCL, #3, 2nd Floor, Green Building,(Drugs Control Department Premises), Palace Road, Bengaluru-560001, **Mobile: 9480682537, Email: kpclcetd@gmail.com, cetdm5@gmail.com**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal. Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com

No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2025-26/5675
Dated:23/03/2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal district invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-4 on KPP portal for 02 no. of tender works pertaining to Raichur district The Approximate amount for the mentioned works Ranges between **Rs.215.00 Lakhs to 650.00 Lakhs**. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after **25-03-2026** Last date & time for receipt of tender is **08-04-2026** time 17.30 hours, Pre bid meeting will be held on **04-04-2026**, 11.00 Hours at division office koppal, Date & time for opening of technical bid **10-04-2026** time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid **13-04-2026** time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/766/KSMCA/2025-26

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Yermarus Thermal Power Station)
(Joint venture of KPCL and BHEL)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two cover system) (Through e-procurement portal only)

Item wise tenders are invited through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

(1) KPCL/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 4056, Dated: 17.03.2026. **Name of the Work:** Formation of approached road to Sodium Hypochlorite Bulk Storage Tank for AWRS and Pathway to Plant Water System components at YTPS. **EMD: Rs.44,200/-.** Class of contractor: KPWD Class-IV & above. Period of completion: 4 months (including monsoon period). Last date and time for bid submission: 01.04.2026 upto 17:30 hrs. **Contact:** Executive Engineer (Civil). Mobile: 94806 82523.

(2) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT 4046, Dated: 10.03.2026. **Name of the Work:** Refurbishment of released rotors of Vacuum Pumps of Ash handling system. Last date and time for bid submission: 31.03.2026 upto 16:30 hrs. **Contact:** Executive Engineer (M-3). Mobile: 94810 89001.

RPCL/YTPS, Yermarus - 584 134, Raichur Dist., Karnataka.

Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar
Phone No. (0240) 2333536-40, 2348001-05 (PBX)
Fax No.(0240) 2331213

No./CSMC/BOT/103/2026 Date 24/3/2026

CORRIGENDUM

Reference:- No./BOT/CSMC/2026/90, dated: 02/03/2026

Tender notice for Development of Commercial Complex (Shops & Offices), Banquet / Exhibition Hall on Build Operate and Transfer Basis situated at CTS No.3208, Nehru Bhavan, Buddilane, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. Tender ID: 2026-AMCA-1283163-1 Published in daily newspapers and also on www.mahatenders.gov.in. As per the above reference Schedule of bid opening process of last date of submission 25/03/2026 is changed and extended to 05/04/2026 up to 16.00 hrs is considered. Schedule of Opening of Technical Bid and for further Details will be published on www.mahatenders.gov.in portal. Rest of the conditions remains unchanged.

Sd/-
Commissioner
Municipal Corporation,
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-procurement)

BESCOM invites tenders vide Enquiry No: BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT1065 through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders for "Strengthening of HT/LT network by establishing 3 new feeders for evacuating of power and to convert existing HT/LT overhead lines to HT UG cable and LT AB cable in **Kanakapura Division** of Ramanagara circle, BESCOM for a period of one year on Rate Contract under Total Turnkey Percentage Quoting Basis."

Bid Documents available: 26.03.2026. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 24.04.2026, 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 27.04.2026, 17:15 Hrs.

The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.

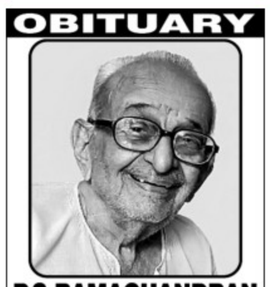
Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele.,), Procurement, BESCOM

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY



P.S.RAMACHANDRAN
[Sr.Divisional Manager, LIC (Retd.)]
Passed away peacefully on March 20, 2026
Deeply Mourned by
D.Satyabhama
P.R.Subramanian & Janaki
P.R.Devaraj & Nagalakshmi
Adithya & Niamh
Soundarya, Aishwarya, Shreeya

PUBLIC NOTICE

State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka, (Constituted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India),have accorded Environmental Clearance-Expansion for the construction of "Residential Apartment and Club House" project at Sy. No. 191 (Old Sy. No. 19), Hagaduru Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban Districtvide EC Identification No. EC26C3801 KA5862586N and File No. SEIAA40 CON 2026 Dated: 23rd March 2026.

Thecopies of clearance letters/details are available with Karnataka State Environment Impact Assessment Authority at **http://environmentclearance.nic.in**

M/s. SOBHA LIMITED
Sobha Corporate Office,
Sarjapur-Marathahalli Outer Ring Road (ORR),
Devarabeesanahalli, Bellandur Post,
Bangalore – 560 103

Cowardly bully

Trump should end the war and ask Israel to leave Iran alone

Donald Trump's decision to postpone attacks on Iran's power plants, 36 hours after issuing a 48-hour ultimatum to Tehran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, is the clearest sign yet that the war is not going according to his plan. Over the past week, Mr. Trump has declared victory, claiming that U.S. and Israeli strikes had destroyed Iran's defence capabilities. Yet, Iran continues to launch missiles at Persian Gulf countries and Israel, while maintaining control over the Strait of Hormuz, which prevents Mr. Trump from extricating himself from a conflict whose economic costs are mounting globally. Since the war began on February 28, Iran has largely ignored Mr. Trump's threats, responding to escalation with counter-escalation. When the U.S. bombed Kharg Island, Iran struck American bases in the region. When Israel targeted South Pars, Iran hit energy facilities across Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Israel. After the Natanz nuclear facility was struck, Tehran targeted Dimona, the Israeli town hosting its nuclear facilities. When Mr. Trump threatened strikes on Iran's power plants, Tehran warned of attacks on Gulf and Israeli energy assets and U.S. financial interests, forcing him to make a U-turn.

Before the war began, the U.S. and Israel had set ambitious objectives: force Tehran to shut down its nuclear programme and ship out the highly enriched uranium, cut off Iran's support for non-state militias in West Asia and dismantle its missile capabilities. Twenty-five days later, one of Mr. Trump's key priorities is to open the Strait of Hormuz, which was closed only after the war broke out. He does not have easy options to do so – he has to either talk to Tehran and make a deal or authorise a ground operation; reports suggest the U.S. has already despatched thousands of marines. Yet, Mr. Trump's U-turn on strikes on power plants indicates that he may be seriously weighing talks. Iran has dismissed Mr. Trump's claims that negotiations are underway. But President Masoud Pezeshkian has outlined conditions for ending the war: guarantees against future aggression; reparations for infrastructure damage; and recognition of Iran's 'legitimate rights' (which can be interpreted as sanctions relief). Mr. Trump, whose administration has already eased some sanctions on Iran's oil, could be looking for a deal, and Tehran could reciprocate if common ground is found. But for any diplomatic effort to progress, Mr. Trump must first rein in his ally Israel, which continues to pound Iran and Lebanon like an unhinged bully. The military path that he has embraced is showing clear limits. The least damaging way out for Mr. Trump is to strike a deal with Iran and get out of this war.

Political poker

Confusion prevails among all the main players in Puducherry

Puducherry and political confusion go together. This has been reinforced in the manner in which the major political players have gone through the seat sharing process. Though Puducherry's first NDA government, led by the AINRC and the BJP, has been able to complete its five-year term, the allies have struggled to reach an electoral understanding. An agreement was reached only on March 20, three days before nominations closed, with the AINRC and BJP allotted 16 and 10 seats, respectively, and junior allies the AIADMK and the fledgling LJK given two seats each. The AIADMK, which formed the government in 1974 and 1977, and enjoyed a vote share between 12.6% (2001) and nearly 17% (2016), faces the election as an untested force. Its woes stem from its leadership, which neglected party-building after Jayalalithaa's death. On the contrary, the BJP, once losing deposits in most of the seats it contested till 2016, rose in 2021 by allying with the AINRC, though its much-hyped "double-engine" governance model has disappointed. A 2024 study by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the IIPA highlighted Puducherry's "... most unsatisfactory" performance as there has been no panchayat election since 2006. A C&AG report on Puducherry's finances for 2023-24, also makes a few pertinent observations. Yet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who visited the Union Territory on March 1 to inaugurate projects worth around ₹2,700 crore, lauded the government on governance.

The Congress-DMK alliance fares no better, with differences persisting even on the final nomination day. Adding to the confusion, Puducherry MP and former Chief Minister V. Vaithilingam, also chief of the Pradesh Congress Committee, filed his nomination. Reports suggest that the Congress may contest 16 seats, leaving 12 to the DMK, and one each for the CPI and VCK. Protesting the treatment meted out to it, the VCK will contest independently in three constituencies. The CPI(M) has fielded its candidates in four seats, apart from supporting an independent in Mahe, an enclave in Kerala. Congress supporters of former Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy – he did not contest the 2021 election – are upset that he has been denied a ticket. Adding to the chaotic situation, the TVK first released a full list of 30 candidates on Sunday, the penultimate day of filing of nominations, but later announced the allotment of two seats to the fledgling NMK. At least four of the TVK's nominees are from other parties. All these political players must also account for the Union government's power to nominate three legislators to the Assembly. On April 9, nearly 9.5 lakh voters should choose a government that meaningfully improves governance and goes beyond demanding Statehood.

Looking back at the lockdown, lessons in leadership

Edappadi K. Palaniswami

is the General Secretary of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), Leader of the Opposition in Tamil Nadu, and was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu during the lockdown and COVID-19 crisis

There are moments in public life when the familiar rhythms of governance are suddenly replaced by the need to pivot, make crucial decisions in the absence of precedent, and think on one's feet – without losing focus or compassion. The announcement of a nationwide lockdown on March 25, 2020, was one such moment. As the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, I found myself confronting a crisis unlike any we had experienced before, one that demanded swift decisions, constant vigilance, and, above all, a deep sense of responsibility towards every citizen.

Getting the priorities right

In those early days, as I recall, the scale of the challenge was still unfolding. We did not fully understand what we were dealing with. COVID-19 was not merely a public health emergency; it was a disruption that touched every aspect of life – health care, livelihoods, supply chains and social stability. The State had to move quickly, even as information evolved and the path ahead remained uncertain. I often say that during that period, I was a crisis manager first and a Chief Minister later. Every decision had immediate consequences, and there was little room for error.

One of the first priorities was to ensure that the health-care system was prepared. Tamil Nadu has long prided itself on a strong public health infrastructure, but the pandemic tested its limits. We expanded hospital capacity, established dedicated COVID-19 care centres, and ensured the availability of essential equipment. Doctors, nurses, sanitation workers and frontline staff became the backbone of our response. I continue to recall their courage and commitment, often in the face of personal risk, as extraordinary. This is especially relevant now, as these same workers are protesting for their basic rights and the fulfilment of promises made to them by the present ruling party.

Equally critical was the management of the lockdown itself. The sudden halt of movement posed a complex challenge: how to contain the spread of the virus while ensuring that essential goods and services remained accessible. We worked closely with district administrations to maintain supply chains, regulate markets and prevent panic. This is where being hands-on and in constant touch with administrators at the district level proved invaluable. The public distribution system played a vital role in ensuring that no family went without basic necessities. Free rations, financial assistance and targeted welfare measures were introduced to support those most affected.

Tamil Nadu's COVID-19 response showcased leadership, coordination, determination, and a commitment to protect lives

What remains with me from that time is the discipline and the resilience shown by the people of Tamil Nadu. Compliance with restrictions was not always easy, particularly for daily wage earners and small business owners. Yet, there was a collective understanding that these measures were necessary. Communication became a key tool – we made it a point to provide regular updates, address concerns transparently, and build trust during a time of fear and uncertainty.

Localised decision making

Another important lesson was the value of decentralised governance. While policies were framed at the State level, their success depended on effective implementation at the district and local levels. District Collectors, police officials, health officers, and local bodies worked tirelessly, often under immense pressure. Their ability to adapt to changing circumstances ensured that the response remained agile and responsive.

At the same time, the lockdown revealed the vulnerabilities within our society. Migrant workers, informal sector labourers and small entrepreneurs were among the hardest hit. The experience reinforced the need for stronger social safety nets and more inclusive economic planning. A crisis of this magnitude does not affect all sections equally, and good governance must account for these disparities.

I am often asked what the toughest decisions were during that period. The most difficult choices involved balancing public health with economic activity. Prolonged restrictions could not be sustained indefinitely, yet premature relaxation carried its own risks. We had to calibrate our approach carefully, guided by data and expert advice. It is worth noting that when uninformed critics and detractors highlight past data to showcase their achievements, they often overlook those crucial COVID-19 years, when the phased reopening of the economy was undertaken with caution, always keeping in mind the need to protect lives while restoring livelihoods.

Technology played an important role during this period. From tracking cases to disseminating information, digital tools helped improve coordination and efficiency. However, the pandemic also highlighted the digital divide, reminding us that access to technology is not uniform and that governance must remain inclusive.

Looking back, one of the most significant lessons is the importance of preparedness. While no state could have fully anticipated a crisis of this scale, the experience underscores the need for robust contingency planning, sustained investment in health care, and the ability to respond quickly to emerging threats. Public health must remain a priority, not only during emergencies but also as a continuous commitment.

Another lesson is the value of cooperation between governments, institutions and communities. A crisis of this nature cannot be managed in isolation. It requires coordination at multiple levels and a willingness to work together towards a common goal. Differences in political perspective must give way to a shared sense of purpose when the well-being of the people is at stake.

For me, personally, the lockdown was a period of intense responsibility and reflection. Leadership, in such times, is not about visibility but about decision-making, which is often difficult, sometimes unpopular, but always guided by the larger public interest. It is about remaining calm under pressure, listening to experts, and staying connected to realities on the ground.

The management of the lockdown in Tamil Nadu may not always have been widely spoken about, but it was marked by quiet efficiency and a collective effort that deserves recognition. It was not the work of any one individual, but of an entire system that came together in the face of an unprecedented challenge.

Upon reflection

Today marks six years since the lockdown was imposed in India. We have, in many ways, left those difficult days behind. Masking is now largely a thing of the past, and the economy is on an upward trajectory. Yet, as we move forward, it is important not to lose sight of these lessons. The pandemic has left an enduring impact, but it has also provided an opportunity to strengthen our systems, rethink our priorities, and build a more resilient future.

History will remember this period not only for the challenges it posed, but also for the way we responded to them. Crisis comes unannounced, and when it does, it is experience, a calm head, and deep compassion for people that guide our decisions.

In Tamil Nadu, that response was defined by determination, coordination, and a shared commitment to protect lives.

And that, perhaps, is the most important lesson of all.

Deepening global corruption as a pointer for India

Saumitra Bhaduri

is Professor at the Madras School of Economics, researches financial economics and econometrics, development economics and policy analysis, and has published widely in international journals

The Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 (CPI) published by Transparency International delivers an unmistakable message. Corruption is not receding. It is deepening in ways that erode democratic accountability and hollow out public institutions. For the first time in over a decade, the global average score has dropped to 42 out of 100, with 122 of 182 countries scoring below 50. Only five countries now score above 80, compared with 12 a decade ago. The direction is clear and troubling. Where oversight weakens and civic freedoms narrow, corruption perceptions worsen.

What the data show

India's position must be assessed within this global decline. With a score of 39 and a rank of 91 out of 182 countries in the 2025 index, India remains in the lower half of the table. Over the past decade, India's score has fluctuated narrowly between 38 and 41. In 2014, it stood at 38. A decade later, it remains broadly similar. For a country that has emerged as the world's fourth-largest economy and aspires to achieve developed nation status by 2047, this stagnation is revealing. While the economic scale has expanded dramatically over time, the governance perception has not kept pace.

Global comparisons sharpen the picture. China scores 42. Sri Lanka stands close to India's level, while Bangladesh and Pakistan score lower. India performs better than some of its neighbours, yet it trails several upper-middle-income democracies and many East Asian and European countries that once operated at comparable development levels. Those countries strengthened institutional independence, transparency frameworks and regulatory predictability over time. Their CPI trajectories reflect sustained reform.

Why does India's CPI score matter? First, the index measures perceived public sector integrity rather than recorded incidents. It draws on 13 independent data sources that assess public procurement, regulatory enforcement, judicial effectiveness and institutional safeguards. A score of 39 signals persistent weaknesses in transparency, oversight and accountability. Perceptions influence investment decisions, sovereign risk assessments and long-term capital allocation. Governance credibility has now become a competitive economic variable.

Transparency must become a national priority as governance credibility is now a competitive economic variable

Second, corruption carries measurable economic costs. It increases transaction uncertainty, raises compliance expenses and diverts entrepreneurial energy toward navigating rent-seeking systems rather than creating value. These distortions reduce productivity and discourage investment. A widely cited global estimate suggests that corruption costs at least 5% of global GDP annually, equivalent to more than $2.6 trillion in lost output each year. This figure includes bribes, illicit financial flows and inefficiencies in public spending. While precise quantification varies across studies, the scale of the drag is undeniable.

For developing economies such as India, the impact is significant. Research linked to multilateral institutions suggests that corruption may cost India roughly 0.5% of GDP annually in direct terms, with broader estimates placing total losses between 1% and 1.5% of GDP once indirect growth effects are included. At current output levels, this represents tens of billions of dollars each year. These are resources that could finance infrastructure, health, education or industrial upgrading.

Hurdles in compliance architecture

A third structural concern lies in the complexity of India's compliance architecture. A recent report indicates that entrepreneurs operate under the shadow of 26,134 imprisonment provisions embedded across India's business regulations. The scale of the burden becomes clearer at the industry level. Even as the Union Budget 2026-27 proposes the Biopharma Strategy for Healthcare Advancement through Knowledge, Technology and Innovation (SHAKTI) initiative with an allocation of ₹10,000 crore over five years, a pharmaceutical start-up with a single manufacturing unit is required to navigate 998 separate compliance obligations before commencing operations, with nearly 49% bearing potential criminal liability. Such extensive criminalisation within regulatory frameworks not only raises the cost of doing business but also expands discretionary power in ways that can inadvertently create conditions for rent seeking.

Encouraging trends

Yet, the picture is not uniformly bleak, as there are also positive counter-currents. India's digital public infrastructure has reduced leakages in certain welfare schemes through direct benefit transfers linked to bank accounts and digital identity. The Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI), with March 2018 as the base, has been tracking the extent of digitisation of payments across the country since January 1, 2021. The index for September 2025 stands at 516.76 as against 493.22 for March 2025. The Goods and Services Tax network has increased formalisation and traceability in indirect taxation.

E-procurement portals and digital payment systems have reduced opportunities for some forms of rent seeking. These reforms demonstrate that institutional design and the use of technology can reduce discretion. Corruption, therefore, is not merely a moral or legal problem. It is an economic constraint and a strategic vulnerability. It weakens fiscal efficiency, undermines regulatory credibility and reduces social trust. For a country that envisions becoming a $10 trillion- economy within the next decade, governance quality cannot remain static. Rapid economic expansion without parallel institutional strengthening creates an imbalance.

The 2025 Index should be read as a benchmark rather than a verdict. India possesses strong constitutional foundations, competitive elections, a capable judiciary and growing digital capacity. Even modest but sustained improvements in transparency, judicial efficiency, regulatory simplification and institutional independence could materially improve perceptions over time. Countries that climbed the CPI rankings did so through cumulative reform, not episodic crackdowns.

India's economic ascent has been decisive. Its governance evolution must now match that ambition with equal resolve.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

War 'breather'

The sudden 'pause' in the West Asia conflict offers a much-needed, though uncertain, reprieve amid the prolonged U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran (Front page, March 24). The aimless military aggression has also inflicted widespread devastation in the Gulf region. There has also been a frequent shifting of goalposts by the United States. With the unilateral announcement of an abrupt pause, it is still hazy whether Israel and the U.S. are on the same page. Further, given the veracity of Mr. Trump's assurances earlier, it remains to be seen whether the 'peace rhetoric' that he has chosen can yield tangible results in cessation of war. Perhaps India can leverage its core diplomatic strengths — its bonhomie with Israel and friendly bilateral relations with Iran and the Gulf nations — in forging a durable peace in the region.

G. Ramasubramanyam,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

The war between U.S.-Israel and Iran has caused immense suffering throughout the world. However, it is welcome news to acknowledge the possibility of a truce deal. The UN must step in and facilitate dialogue between the warring nations. Regional intergovernmental organisations too must step up efforts to secure the trade of oil and gas and also prevent further escalations.

Manas Agarwal,
Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh

Impact on small investors

The turbulence in Indian equity markets ever since the West Asia conflict began has hit small retail investors disproportionately hard. Unlike institutional players with hedging tools and diversified portfolios, the individual investor who entered the market during the post-COVID-19 boom often has neither the knowledge nor the liquidity buffer to ride out sustained volatility. What he needs now is practical guidance. Systematic investment plans, spread across debt and equity, remain the most sensible instruments.

A. Myilsami,
Coimbatore

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The judicial push for environmental CSR

Mohan Chandra Pargaien

Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Telangana and adviser to SCCL

India emerged as a pioneer for mandating profit-sharing for social good through the Companies Act, 2013 – a visionary move to channel corporate earnings for crucial societal objectives. However, the environment remains largely neglected, often sidelined by prevailing corporate priorities. Despite India's commitment to net-zero emissions by 2070 at COP26, and escalating climate challenges from air pollution, water scarcity, and poor waste management, ecological needs continue to be underrepresented in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding.

However, recent Supreme Court observations have reframed environmental spending – not as mere discretionary charity, but as a constitutional mandate. By invoking Article 51A (g), the judiciary underscored that the right to conduct business is inseparably linked to the responsibility to restore our planet. The neglect of the habitats of the Great Indian Bustard by energy firms catalysed the Court to issue this mandate.

Skewed funding

An analysis of CSR data exposes a lopsided spending pattern that favours human-centric development at the expense of the environment. Over the past seven years, funds have been overwhelmingly allocated to social sectors, with education receiving approximately 38%, healthcare 22%, and rural development 10%. Conversely, the environment averaged between 7%-9%, creating an unbalanced ledger that critically underfunds vital sustainability projects. This disparity suggests that corporations view environmental crises as distant threats compared to immediate social needs. Yet, there are commendable exceptions that prove large-scale restoration is possible.

Mahindra's 'Project Hariyali' has planted almost 25 million trees, focusing on survival rates rather than just sapling counts; ITC's forestry program spans 1.3 million acres, integrating livelihoods with conservation; the Tata Group leads water conservation through massive watershed management; Coca-Cola and Hindustan Unilever have undertaken circular waste management projects; and JSW has advanced mangrove restoration. These initiatives demonstrate that prioritising the environment yields significant, and measurable impact. Nevertheless, most companies still pursue 'quick wins' such as one-off awareness drives, and sidestep the arduous processes of forest restoration and natural resource recovery.

Challenges of restoration

Much needed environmental restoration, including afforestation, has been neglected in India as is evidenced in the country's report on the Bonn Challenge (a global, voluntary effort to restore 350 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2030). While the nation aims to restore 26 million hectares by 2030, private companies have contributed a negligible 2% to the 9.8 million hectares restored so far.

There is a massive 'restoration gap' between the damage caused by industrial activity and the investment made to fix it. Companies prefer social projects such as environmental awareness campaigns, renewable energy, or basic green initiatives. These give quick visibility, clear results, and facilitate easy reporting. In contrast, land-based projects such as forest restoration with tree planting, habitat recovery, water conservation, and waste management take a long time. In addition, they also require expert skills in tree-growing, soil health, and biodiversity checks – skills that most CSR partners don't have. Corporations often support initiatives such as the recently popular Miyawaki plantations, which offer rapid growth and look excellent in annual reports, but often compromise native ecology and biodiversity. The situation is worsened by an urban bias in the selection of the target area; a lack of practical policies for degraded lands; and poor collaboration with forest departments and other organisations.

By invoking Article 51A (g), the judiciary underscored that the right to conduct business is inseparably linked to the responsibility to restore our planet

Need for reimagining strategy

The current judicial push demands an urgent transition to a 'ecosystem recovery' strategy. This requires reimagining corporate accountability, and replacing conventional auditing with time-bound restoration initiatives and their ecological assessments.

Indicators of success should be tangible ecological services such as soil carbon sequestration, water retention, and biodiversity recovery. To achieve this, India must prioritise degraded and remote forest lands lacking resources through appropriate restoration initiatives. Further, the country needs to build alliances between forest departments, universities, conservation NGOs and joint forest management committees. These partnerships can establish dedicated restoration units under scientific supervision, giving due regard to native species and ecology. Furthermore, the challenge of long-term financing for landscape-scale projects and restoration challenges can be solved by establishing a restoration trust or an escrow fund. This would guarantee continuity and provide the long-term security necessary for real ecological impact.

Corporate governance in India must evolve from being shareholder-centric to ecosystem-centric, with directors acting as fiduciaries for the environment and moving past the ease of basic compliance. When the health of our planet is treated as a mandatory, non-negotiable part of business strategy, the country moves toward a future where sustainable development becomes a lived reality.

On rebels and mini-screen actors

Defectors dominate headlines in Kerala as it gears up for a high-stakes election

STATE OF PLAY

K.S. Sudhi
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Twenty20, a corporate-backed political outfit, which had made some electoral gains in the last two local body elections in the eastern belt of Ernakulam district, tried something unheard of in Kerala politics by fielding two participants of popular TV shows as well as two woman actors of Malayalam cinema as their candidates, besides a few other professionals, including a lawyer, in the upcoming Assembly elections.

The organisation, which had dropped its alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party nearly a year ago, has now entered into a partnership with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to become the second largest constituent in the National Democratic Alliance in Kerala.

However, party supremo and industrialist Sabu M. Jacob had no inkling of the political humiliation that awaited him while announcing the list of candidates, after which it was revealed that the names of Veena Nair, an actor and the party's candidate in Ettumanoor, and Lakshmipriya, another actor and the party's candidate in Perumbavoor, didn't figure in the voters' list. Though the party quickly found replacements for the two, the political damage was already done.

It may take much time and effort for the party to overcome this setback it suffered even before hitting the road.

Defectors galore

The election season has also witnessed red carpets being rolled out to defectors from rival camps, and having them already fielded as candidates, wasting no time on a cooling period in their new parties.

While political defections are not new in Kerala politics, the State is witnessing defections on an unprecedented scale, with all major political parties promoting the trend.

It was probably the BJP, which is desperate to gain a political foothold in the State, which started encouraging dissidents and defectors from other parties by offering them organisational posts and seats to contest; the party has successfully tried the game elsewhere in the country.

Anil Antony and Padmaja Venugopal, the children of two senior Congress leaders A. K. Antony and K. Karunakaran respectively, had left for the BJP earlier much to the discomfiture of the Congress. At the same time, the BJP lost its fiery spokesperson, Sandeep Varrier, who crossed over to the Congress and has been fielded from the Thrikkaripur Assembly constituency.

However, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) was the greatest loser in this aspect as at least five of its senior party leaders walked over to rival political camps. Former State Minister G. Sudhakaran, Aisha Potty, S. Rajendran, P. K. Sasi and Karat Razak, all former MLAs, have left the party fold in quick succession. Two senior CPI (M) leaders from Kannur, V. Kunjukrishnan and T. K. Govindan, also contributed their might to the organisational crisis by leaving the party.

The party was in for further embarrassment, when on the eve of the deadline for filing nominations, Smitha Sundaresan, a CPI (M) area committee member from Varkala and a civic representative, decided to embrace the saffron flag. The BJP quickly fielded the young woman, who is also the daughter of veteran party leader Sundaresan, from the Varkala constituency, which is currently represented by CPI (M) leader V. Joy.

The party further had no luck in its attempts to poach former Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) legislator Abdurahiman Randathani, who had criticised the candidate selection in the IUML.

The Communist Party of India (CPI) too had its share of troubles with two of its former legislators, K. Ajith and C.C. Mukundan, leaving the party for the BJP. Mr. Mukundan joined the BJP after his unsuccessful attempts to secure Congress support.

Troubling signs

While leaders from the United Democratic Front (UDF) portrayed the unprecedented exodus of CPI (M) leaders from the party as an indication of the winds of political change in the State, the party dismissed it as 'parliamentary fascination' that had gripped a section of its leaders.

For a party in power for a decade together, the defections are a real challenge, both organisationally and politically. The poll outcome would be decisive for both the party and the dissidents as an electoral victory would strengthen the campaign of the rebels, besides giving it an ideological shade, which would trigger fresh trouble for the party.

Why a prolonged war with Iran will constrain the U.S.

With a significant share of its previously procured weapons expended, the U.S. risks a strained stockpile

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

When the conflict in West Asia, which began with the U.S. and Israel's attack on Iran on February 28, escalated into a regional war, analysts said that the war would last as long as Iran had missiles or until the Gulf nations ran out of interceptors. A significant number of munitions, especially missiles and interceptors, have been used by all parties engaged in the conflict.

However, with "emergency" military sales, piling monetary costs and a strained supply chain, is the U.S. becoming too constrained in its effort to keep the war going – both militarily and monetarily?

On February 28, when the attacks began, Mr. Trump said that the U.S. was going to destroy Iran's missiles and raze their missile industry to the ground. However, Iran has continued its attacks on various Gulf states and its energy infrastructure. Though it has reduced the pace, it has launched over 1,400 ballistic missiles and 3,400 drones between February 28 and March 23 **(Chart 1)**.

Gulf nations, on the other hand, have rushed to the U.S. for interceptors. Last week, the U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio waived the requirement of a Congress approval to pass a weapons sale worth $16.46 billion to the UAE and Kuwait. The biggest single sale was of lower-tier air missile defence sensor radars to Kuwait and long-range discrimination radar and related equipment to the UAE.

These deals aside, the war itself has been an expensive affair. According to an analysis by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Operation Epic Fury is estimated to have cost $16.5 billion by its 12th day. The estimate is based on assumptions about the U.S.-allies split in air defence. It also assumes that more than 90% of munitions used after Day 5 were low-cost weapons.

Even with these assumptions, data show that the U.S. has used a significant share of its previous procurements **(Chart 2)**.

In several cases, the estimated number of munitions expended in just six days exceeds the number of orders placed by the Department of Defence in FY26 **(Chart 3)**. These orders themselves might take more than a year to be delivered.

For instance, in less than a week, the U.S. has expended 158 of its Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptors. This is almost 25% of all its previous procurements till FY24. It is also six times its order for THAAD interceptors placed in FY26. Similarly, it is estimated to have used 139 of its Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) interceptors, almost 7% of its previous PAC-3 procurements.

Replenishing these stockpiles will again cost the U.S. millions. For instance, the U.S. will require around $2 billion to replace the THAAD interceptors used in the first six days. Similarly, it will need $3 billion and more than $1 billion to replace the SM-3 interceptors and Tomahawk missiles respectively **(Chart 4)**.

Supply chain factor

The U.S.'s ability to afford the war also depends on mineral supply chains. Certain minerals such as tungsten, gallium, germanium and antimony which are crucial in various military applications are under constrained supply. The U.S.'s Net Import Reliance (NIR) exceeds 90% for antimony and gallium. For germanium and tungsten, its NIR is greater than 50% **(Chart 5)**.

Earlier this month, S&P Global reported that the Pentagon's ability to replenish weapons stockpiles could come under pressure from shortages in some critical mineral markets as well as from China's leverage over mineral supply chains.

Strained stockpiles

Prolonging the war against Iran is bound to constrain the U.S.'s and its allies' reliance on interceptors. The graphic brings out this detail across charts

Mounting attacks: The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) firing a Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM) as part of Operation Epic Fury, on March 1. AP

1 The estimate is based on assumptions about the U.S.-allies split in air defence. It also assumes that more than 90% of munitions used after Day 5 were low-cost weapons

2 Figures in Chart 3 are based on orders placed in FY26. Actual deliveries of these figures might take longer

Data for the charts were sourced from the Center for Strategic and International Studies, U.S. Department of Defence, United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)

Chart 1: Number of ballistic missiles and drones launched by Iran between February 28 and March 23 as recorded by JINSA

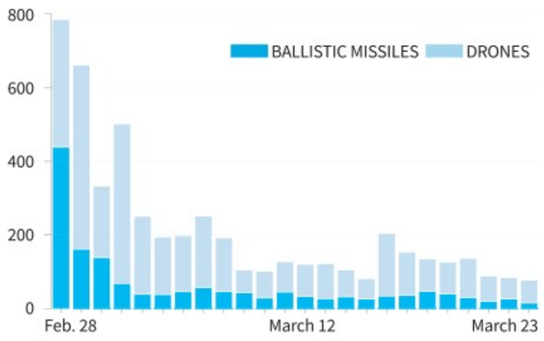


Chart 2: Estimated number of munitions expended in the first six days of war as a share of previous procurements. Figures in %

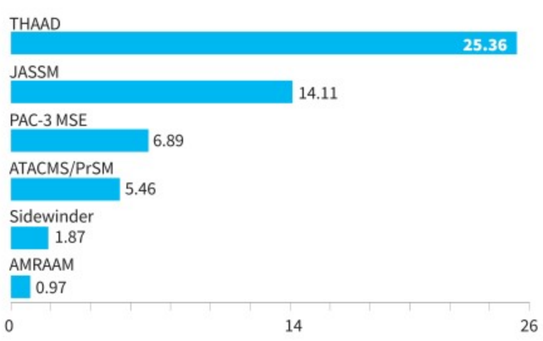
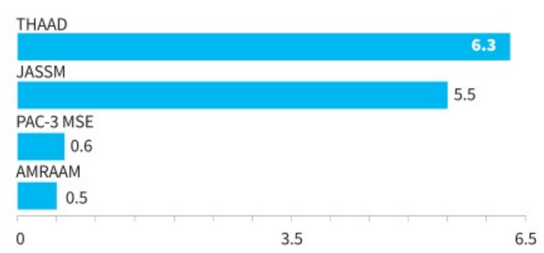


Chart 3: Estimates of select munitions expended by the U.S. in the first six days of its war as a multiple of the number of orders placed by the U.S. Department of Defence in FY26



JASSM: Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) | **PAC-3 MSE:** Patriot Advanced Capability 3 Missile Segment Enhancement | **AMRAAM:** Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile | **THAAD:** Terminal High Altitude Area Defense

Chart 4: Estimated number of munitions expended in the six days of war and the cost of replacing them as per the latest year

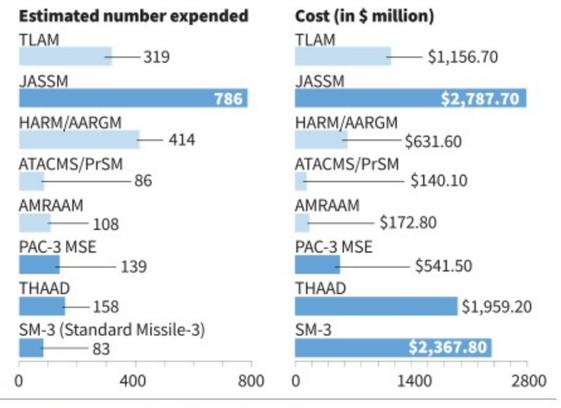
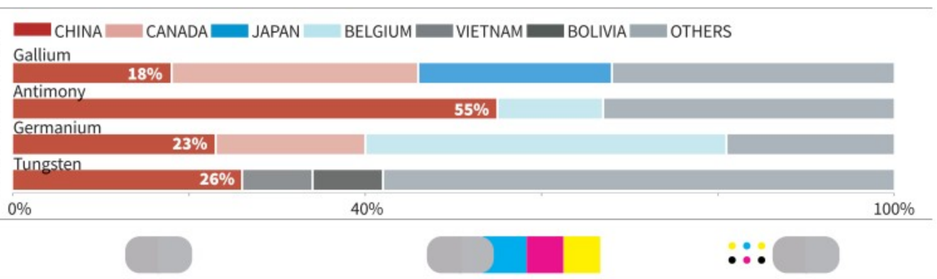


Chart 5: The import sources of critical minerals for which the United States' net import reliance (NIR) was greater than 50% in 2025



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 25, 1976

Coup in Argentina: Mrs. Peron ousted and arrested

Buenos Aires, March 24: Heavily armed troops stormed the headquarters of the communist party, three blocks from the National Congress building, and arrested three persons – one apparently wounded by gunfire, party sources said.

The new military rulers suspended all political activity in the country. One of their first acts was to freeze Solidarity Crusade Charity Fund from which Mrs. Peron was accused of writing personal checks.

The coup came just after midnight moving with smooth precision and without bloodshed.

There were no details given on the whereabouts of Mrs. Peron. A terse statement in the pre-dawn hours said only that she had been taken under custody to a site in the provinces and that her personal security was guaranteed. Military sources said she was held at El Messidor, a mountain residence maintained by the Air Force in the Andes, 1,490 km south of here, a Swiss-style chalet surrounded by lush gardens in a mountain setting.

The world's first woman President pulled out a revolver when she was surrounded by Air Force troops at the municipal airport here. But informed sources said she was quickly disarmed, transferred to a military plane and flown as a prisoner to the official winter residence of Argentine Presidents at Messidor.

The armed forces formally announced the coup over the national radio network at 11:45 am. A first communique called on the population to remain calm.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 25, 1926

Income from Indian state railway

London, March 24: In the Commons, replying to Mr. Johnston, Earl Winterton said that the net profit of the Indian State Railways for 1925-26 was now estimated at about 6,500,000 pounds. The contribution to general revenue was about four millions sterling.

Replying to Commander Kenworthy Sir A. Chamberlain said that no slave dhows had been captured by His Majesty's ships in the Red Sea since 1922 nor, as far as he was aware, by warships of any other Power.

From Page One

SC status only for Sikhs, Hindus, Buddhists: court

Confirming the High Court's decision in the plea by Mr. Anand, the top court drew attention to the term "profess" in Clause 3 of the 1950 Order.

"The term 'profess' connotes to publicly declare or practice a religion. The essence of the word lies in the open avowal of one's religious beliefs in a manner discernible to the public at large. It is not merely a question of personal belief or private conviction, but requires an outward manifestation of one's faith. It may be observed that Christianity, by its very theological foundation, does not recognise or incorporate the institution of caste," Justice Mishra said.

The top court said a convert who did not profess any of the three religions in Clause 3 of the 1950 Order could not claim any "statutory benefit, protection, reservation or entitlement" of a Scheduled Caste (SC) member. Justice Mishra said the bar admitted no exception. A person cannot simultaneously profess and practice a religion other than the ones specified in Clause 3 and claim membership of a Scheduled Caste at the same time, the court said.

"A person who professes and practices such religion for personal, social and spiritual purposes cannot, in law, assert membership of a Scheduled Caste for the purpose of securing statutory benefits. The two positions are mutually exclusive and contrary to the Constitutional scheme," Justice Mishra observed. A person claiming to have "reconverted" to Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism must "cumulatively and conclusively establish" clear proof of his earlier caste; provide credible and unimpeachable evidence of *bona fide* reconversion to the original religion; and show satisfactory evidence that members of his original caste have accepted and assimilated him into the community. The court said renunciation of the new religion by the convert must be unequivocal. It should translate to the adoption and observance of the customs, usages, practices, rituals, and religious obligations of the original caste. Failure to establish even one condition renders the claim of re-conversion unsustainable, the court said.

The judgment also dealt with the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, which did not prescribe religion-based exclusion as in the case of the Scheduled Caste community. Justice Mishra said a person could claim benefits under the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, only if he or she continued to belong to that particular tribe "in substance".

Trump discusses Strait of Hormuz with Modi

Tuesday saw the first conversation between the two leaders since the conflict in West Asia began on February 28. "We agreed to stay in touch regarding efforts towards peace and stability," Mr. Modi said in his post after speaking with Mr. Trump. Mr. Modi has been in contact with several leading interlocutors over the past four weeks as U.S. and Israel hit Iran's energy hubs prompting Iran to strike energy targets across the region. The attacks have disrupted the global energy market pushing prices of crude high and triggering uncertainty about availability of LPG in India and other energy-hungry economies.

U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor also posted online about the conversation between the two leaders saying that "they discussed the ongoing situation in the Middle East, including the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open".

Officials here had been tracking the reported exchanges on a possible U.S.-Israel and Iran ceasefire through mediation conducted by several countries, including Pakistan.

To ensure energy supply from Russia and transit of energy from the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz, India has been engaged with both Russia and Iran.

PM flays attack on ships, backs peace in West Asia

India's goal is to restore peace in the region through dialogue and diplomacy, says Modi; Congress leader Kharge says PM's statement comes too late and raises more questions than it answers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day ahead of the all-party meeting to discuss the war in West Asia and its impact on India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday that the country's goal was to restore peace in the region through dialogue and diplomacy.

The Opposition, dissatisfied over the decision by Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan not to allow any clarifications after Mr. Modi's statement, said the statement was "an exercise in obfuscation". "Mr. Modi's statement comes too late and raises more questions than it answers," Leader o the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said in a statement.

Mr. Modi said the situation had created a severe energy crisis across the world. "For India too, this situation is worrisome. Our trade routes are being affected. Routine supplies of essential goods such as petrol, diesel, gas, and fertilizers are disrupted," he said, adding that ensuring safety and livelihood of Indians living in the region was a major concern for India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks in the Rajya Sabha on the West Asia conflict on Tuesday. ANI

Mr. Modi said the country was in touch with Iran, Israel, and the U.S. "Our goal is to restore peace in the region through dialogue and diplomacy. We have spoken with them about de-escalation and reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. India has opposed attacks on civilians, civil infrastructure, and energy and transport-related infrastructure," the Prime Minister said and maintained that India had suggested dialogue as the only path to resolving this problem.

He said the government was working to ensure that farmers received adequate fertilizers in the coming sowing season.

The Prime Minister said the current crisis had shaken the global economy. "Continuous efforts are being made to ensure that India suffers the least possible impact. The fundamentals of our economy are strong, and the government is closely monitoring the rapidly changing situation. The government is working with a strategy to address short-term, medium-term, and long-term impacts," he said.

Soon after Mr. Modi's speech, Opposition members sought clarifications. However, Mr. Radhakrishnan gave ruling that the statement is on international diplomatic relations, and urged members to understand the gravity of the situation. "The Prime Minister has now likened the situation to being 'COVID-like'. The nation cannot forget the tragic suffering during the pandemic, when over 40 lakh lives were lost and countless citizens were left struggling for basic necessities like oxygen," Mr. Kharge said.

Rahul says India's foreign policy is 'compromised'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi

"India's foreign policy is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal policy and is being considered as a universal joke," Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said on Tuesday, even as he targeted Mr. Modi for comparing the conflict in West Asia and its fallout with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Gandhi, while interacting with presspersons on the Parliament premises, said the Prime Minister seemed to have forgotten what had happened during the pandemic and "the kind of tragedies that the country witnessed".

Mr. Gandhi said the country's foreign policy becomes compromised if the Prime Minister is compromised.

"Our foreign policy is PM Modi's personal foreign policy. You can see the results of this, everybody considers this a universal joke. [U.S. President] Donald Trump knows exactly what Mr. Modi can do and what he cannot do. If the PM is compromised, our foreign policy is compromised, it is obvious," he said.

Though the government is convening an all-party meeting on West Asia on Wednesday, Mr. Gandhi said he would not be able to take part as he has programmes to attend in poll-bound Kerala.

"They have called an all-party meeting. There should be a debate, but you have made a structural mistake. You have destroyed the structure and that cannot be corrected. The PM cannot do it. I can give it to you in writing, the PM will do what America and Israel say," the Opposition leader said.

What will be the fallout of West Asia war on economy, Opposition asks government

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Manish Tewari

The Opposition on Tuesday questioned the Union government in the Lok Sabha on the effect of the ongoing war in West Asia on the Indian economy even as it accused the Centre of giving up its strategic autonomy to the U.S.

The ruling BJP, on the other hand, said the Opposition was criticising the government without facts or substance.

Congress MP Manish Tewari, participating in a debate on the Finance Bill 2026 in the Lok Sabha, said the proposed trade agreement with the U.S. will open the Indian market for U.S. agricultural products.

He said there has been a massive fall in the rupee, with no steps taken to check its drop. There has been an exodus of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) from the country, and the economy is not kicking off, he said. "What will be the burden of the ongoing war in West Asia on India, and what will be situation in the country after April 30, when the second phase of Bengal elections gets over," Mr. Tewari asked the government.

BJP MP Navin Jindal accused the Opposition of criticising the government without any "facts or substance".

He said India had become the fastest-growing economy due to the government's consistent efforts. The Opposition is engaged only in protests and disruptions without realising that the welfare programmes undertaken by the government would benefit their constituents too, he said.

Mr. Jindal said that in its 11 years of rule, the NDA government encountered numerous problems - COVID, geopolitical tensions, war - but faced every crisis boldly to bounce back on the path of progress.

Congress MP Deepender Singh Hooda targeted the Modi government over the falling value of the Indian rupee [presently at ₹93] against the U.S. dollar. He said that when international crude prices were $147 per barrel in 2009, the rupee was still at ₹48 against the dollar. "In 2014 when we left the government, the value of rupee was ₹60 to a dollar," he said, adding, "They [the BJP] keep talking about fastest-growing large economy. I have done some research and found out that we are the fastest-falling currency."

The JD(U) MP from Bihar, Ramprit Mandal, sought special steps for the State's industrialisation.

Stalin stresses right of States to have a fair delimitation

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

M.K. Stalin

DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday called for the convening of a special session of Parliament in early June to enact amendments to the Constitution with respect to delimitation, such as an increase in seats, continuation of the current share of representation of States, and a guarantee that such representation will continue for the next 30 years.

In a post on X, Mr. Stalin said recent newspaper reports indicated that women's representation in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies was being considered based on the 2011 Census. The step is not in line with the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, 2023, passed by the BJP government at the Centre, and its earlier position to take up the initiative only after delimitation is carried out based on the Census conducted after 2026, the Chief Minister said.

"This is most probably aimed at securing electoral gains in the forthcoming Assembly elections in four major States. Pushing such an important step when the Model Code of Conduct is already in force is unprecedented," Mr. Stalin said. "As the president of the DMK and the proud inheritor of the Dravidian legacy that has spearheaded women's empowerment for more than a century, I fully support this initiative of women's reservation without any preconditions, while at the same time stressing our right to fair delimitation," he said.

Parliament may take an early break for elections

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Business Advisory Committee (BAC) in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday held discussions on ending the ongoing Budget session by March 28 so that leaders can campaign in election-bound States.

The second part of the Budget Session, which started on March 9, is slated to end on April 2. However, with Assembly polls in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry barely two weeks away, many top leaders and MPs from these States are busy in campaign and have skipped parliamentary proceedings.

When the issue of an early adjournment was taken up, sources said, the government indicated that it may not recommend prorogation or formally end the session. "Instead, it [Parliament] may take a break for the polls and reconvene after the elections are over by April end," an Opposition MP who attended the BAC meeting told *The Hindu*.

SC asks why SIR is bumpy in Bengal when other States had smooth ride

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

> Other States also had their own issues. We are not going to dwell on the uniqueness of the issue, but address the ground reality that, in a State, the fundamental and constitutional rights to participate in an election are to be protected. That is the bottom line for us
> **JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI**
> Supreme Court

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Tuesday commented on the continuing hurdles in the West Bengal special intensive revision (SIR), saying he "read an article" which said the massive electoral roll exercise in other States, whether they were governed by "A, B or C political party", happened "smoothly".

"Whether the State is governed by A, B or C political party... Other than West Bengal, the SIR in every other State has happened smoothly. By and large, there is hardly any litigation," the Chief Justice remarked.

Senior advocate and Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Bandhopadhyay submitted the State was the only one in which the Election Commission came up with the 'logical discrepancy' criterion to purge electors. He said lakhs of people were on the brink of losing their right to vote in the Assembly elections in April 2026.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, on the Bench, observed there was no point in saying Bengal had "thrown up a unique problem". "Other States also had their own issues. We are not going to dwell on the uniqueness of the issue, but address the ground reality that in a State the fundamental and constitutional rights to participate in an election is to be protected. That is the bottom line for us," Justice Bagchi said.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, for the State government, said 60 lakh cases of exclusions from the State electoral roll were under adjudication as on March 23.

He said the first supplementary list of voters showed 27 lakh cases of claims and objections were disposed of by judicial officers functioning as Election Registration Officers (EROs) in an all-out effort to complete the SIR before the Assembly polls.

Mr. Divan said the first phase of polling would cover 152 constituencies in the State. He said the Representation of the People Act, 1950 required freezing of the electoral roll seven days before the last date of the filing of nomination forms.

Distributors told to make available piped gas to residential schools and colleges in 5 days

Nistula Hebbar
Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Spurring the government's objective of accelerating the transition from liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to piped natural gas (PNG), the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), in an order dated March 23, asked city gas distributors (CGD) to make "all out efforts" to provision piped gas to residential schools and colleges, hostels, community kitchens and anganwadi kitchens, etc, within five days, subject to infrastructure feasibility.

Additionally, the regulator has sought a compliance report on connectivity after five days, and thereafter, the same on a daily basis.

New connections

The Hindu learnt from senior officials that over the next two weeks, India holds the potential to further add 15 lakh new PNG connections.

An official said that instituting last-mile connectivity amidst unfavourable city infrastructure in certain areas was among the major hurdles in expanding the piped gas network.

"[Amid the government's push], the obstacles are being expeditiously addressed," the official stated.

Mizoram CM says bought land to help affected locals

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Days after Congress accused Chief Minister Lalduhoma of buying vast tracts of land near key development zones, he said he did so to help owners as they were "facing hardship".

He added such purchases are common among MLAs to support constituents, not for personal gain.

APPEAL

I am 50 years old and was advised to undergo Coronary Angiography Test followed by Open Heart Surgery (Redo Mitral Valve Replacement) at The Madras Medical Mission, Chennai. The surgery cost is **Rs.5,35,000/-**. My husband works in private company. I have 2 school going children and it is very difficult for me to meet the surgery cost. Please help me with your generous contribution. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027.**

E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.

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Rajeswari

ASSEMBLY POLLS

Mascots, vlogger roped in to boost Assam turnout

From contests to vloggers, the Election Commission has undertaken a series of outreach initiatives to improve voter turnout for the Assam Assembly election.

It is organising rangoli, drawing, slogan-writing, digital poster-making, wall writing, and news presentation competitions, as well as street plays, workshops, and other creative activities. It has also roped in Abhinav Borah, a lifestyle, travel, and food vlogger, and para-cyclist Rakesh Banik to connect with the voters. "In addition to attracting and engaging voters, several districts have introduced mascots, while in some districts, popular personalities have been roped in as icons for voter awareness campaigns," a statement by Joint Chief Electoral Officer said on Monday.

For voter connect, the poll panel has deployed celebrities and appealing mascots.

Affidavits reveal jump in assets of Himanta, Gogoi

Sewli Mohilary, Bodoland People's Front candidate from the Kokrajhar constituency, has 37 bank accounts and 32 vehicles, including 16 tipper trucks and four tractors.

The 49-year-old, who is the wife of Bodoland Territorial Council chief Hagrama Mohilary, declared total assets worth ₹54.04 crore.

Mohammed Badruddin Ajmal, the chief of the All India United Democratic Front, declared ₹222.34 as total assets. The combined income of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his entrepreneur wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, almost doubled from ₹17.27 crore in 2021 to ₹35.16 crore.

The combined income of Assam Congress chief, Gaurav Gogoi, and his wife, Elizabeth Colburn Gogoi, also jumped from ₹4.66 crore in 2024 to ₹7.57 crore.

"Mamata is scared because all her fake voters have left, and her favourite officers have also been removed. She has become helpless

DILIP GHOSH
BJP leader

Candidate seeks acceptance of resignation

Arjuna awardee and Trinamool Congress candidate Swapna Barman sought the Calcutta High Court's direction on Tuesday for the railway authorities to accept her resignation from service to contest the polls. She had tendered her resignation on March 16, but it is yet to be accepted, her counsel said. PTI

"The BJP has little at stake in Kerala; it has some votes which it wants to divert to the Left in the hope of a third term, which is not going to happen

SACHIN PILOT
Congress leader

Big allegations: BJP State president and NDA candidate from Nemom constituency, Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Tuesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Battle bristles in Nemom over affidavit of BJP candidate

Sarath Babu George
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A controversy erupted in the high-profile Nemom constituency in Kerala on Tuesday over allegations that BJP State president and party candidate Rajeev Chandrasekhar has not made a full disclosure of assets in his nomination papers.

The controversy has intensified political tensions in Nemom, with all three major fronts engaged in a stiff contest. With legal action likely from multiple sides, the issue is expected to remain a flashpoint in the constituency.

The Congress alleged that Mr. Chandrasekhar had failed to include details of assets estimated at ₹200 crore in his election affidavit. They claimed that the BJP leader had not disclosed the specifics of his residence, "a 49,000-sq. ft mansion in Koramangala 3rd Block, Bengaluru", in his submission.

The party circulated images of a document, reportedly of tax paid to the Bengaluru South City Corporation nearly a week ago. They urged the Election Commission to disqualify the candidate in accordance with the Representation of the People Act.

K.S. Sabarinadhan, the Congress candidate, said the omission raised serious concerns regarding transparency, and could amount to filing a false affidavit, which he described as a potential criminal offence.

Emphasising that public representatives are obligated to maintain transparency in their financial disclosures, he questioned why the assets were not reflected in the nomination papers.

Despite the objections, the Returning Officer accepted Mr. Chandrasekhar's nomination, maintaining it did not violate any grounds for rejection as stated in the Candidate's Handbook, 2023. Mr. Sabarinadhan indicated the UDF would pursue strong legal action, including moving court over the matter.

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) too has announced plans to initiate legal proceedings, as they also accused the BJP candidate of concealing details of assets in his election affidavit, submitted along with his nomination papers.

The "large-scale discrepancies" posed a serious challenge to democratic principles, CPI(M) candidate V. Sivankutty said. During the 2024 Lok Sabha election, when Mr. Chandrasekhar contested from Thiruvananthapuram, the same property was listed as his residence, he said.

The LDF called upon the Election Commission to conduct a thorough investigation.

Responding to the controversy, Mr. Chandrasekhar challenged his political rivals to take their allegations to a court of law. The Congress had raised the same allegations in 2024, during the Lok Sabha election, he said.

"If they were so sure of the allegations, they had two years to drag me to court, but they did nothing. This is a set pattern followed by the Congress in all States, for whenever they know that the elections may not be in their favour, they unleash a new narrative to confuse and distract people. The allegations about a CPI(M)-BJP "deal' and the furore over my assets are all part of this strategy. But the public is beginning to see through them," he said. His house in Bengaluru was owned by a partnership firm, in which he was a partner, he said. This has been disclosed before the EC.

Women short-changed yet again as Kerala parties refuse to change course

Though Kerala is only State where women outnumber men, this demographic strength has never translated into political power; the LDF has fielded 17 women candidates, the UDF 12, and the NDA 14; support across party lines for reservation Bill is yet to catalyse a practical shift in political culture

IN FOCUS

Navamy Sudhish
KOLLAM

As Kerala marches towards the Assembly election, a stark and familiar contradiction has once again taken centre stage. Despite women outnumbering men on the final electoral rolls, the candidate lists released by the major fronts tell a story of exclusion.

Across the 140 constituencies, women remain a decimal point in a male-dominated power struggle, raising urgent questions about whether the State's high literacy and social progress are merely veneer-deep when it comes to political empowerment. This persistent gender paradox suggests that while women are the primary drivers of Kerala's high voter turnout, the winnability argument continues to be used by male-dominated party machineries to keep them away from the corridors of power.

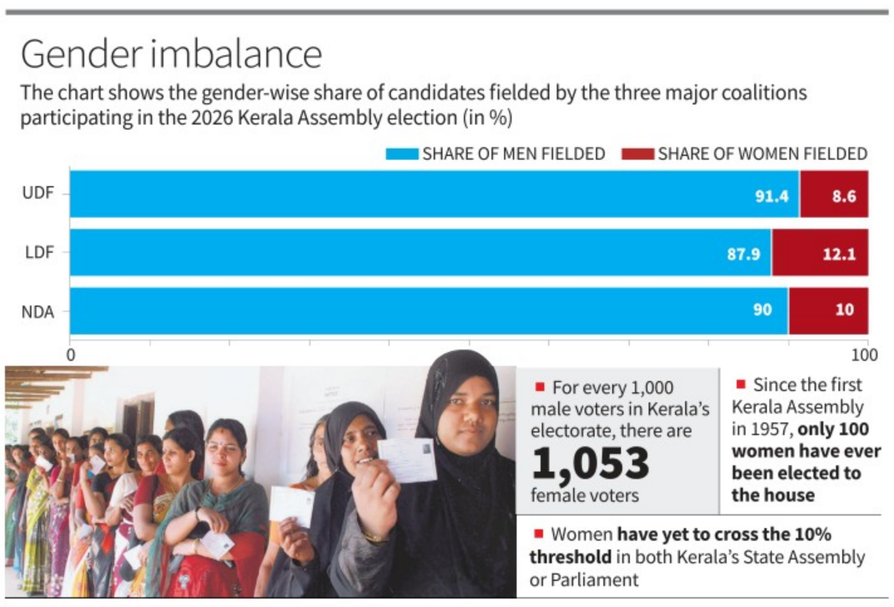
The United Democratic Front has faced sharp internal and external criticism for fielding only nine women out of 92 Congress candidates. When the candidates from constituent parties such as the Revolutionary Marxist Party and the Muslim League are also included, the total number of women candidates in the UDF reaches 12.

The situation is equally grim within the Left Democratic Front, which, despite its progressive rhetoric, has nominated only 17 women.

While this 12% representation is a marginal improvement over previous years, it remains far below the threshold of meaningful empowerment, leaving the State's legislative diversity stagnant. The National Democratic Alliance has fielded around 14 women, and the overall narrative across all fronts remains one of exclusion.

Patriarchal structures

Since the first Kerala Assembly in 1957, only 100 women have ever been elected to the House, a sobering statistic that highlights a glass ceiling. While Kerala often stands as a beacon for human development, the gap between social indicators and political representation remains a stark irony, R.M. Amritaraj, a specialist in women's studies at the Kerala Institute of Local Administration, points out.



"Although it is the only Indian State where women outnumber men, this demographic strength has never translated into political power; women have yet to cross the 10% threshold in either the State Assembly or Parliament," he says.

He adds that this disparity serves as a sobering reminder that high social indicators do not automatically dismantle patriarchal structures. "In a society that prides itself on constant discourse regarding gender justice, inclusivity, and progressive politics, the continued absence of women from major decision-making bodies is a significant systemic failure," he observes.

According to senior CPI (M) leader C.S. Sujatha, the deeply rooted patriarchal nature of Kerala society acts as a barrier to rapid progress. "While we see minor shifts in the right direction, they fall short of what is necessary. Achieving a truly equitable society demands a more rigorous and sustained struggle," she says.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee general secretary Deepthy Mary Varghese says parties celebrate women's empowerment in rhetoric, yet often hesitate to share actual power when there isn't a legal mandate forcing them to do so.

Genuine conviction

"Political parties must develop a genuine conviction regarding the need for women in politics. There are highly capable and strong women leaders who have excelled as local body heads. So the barrier isn't a lack of capable women," she says.

BJP spokesperson T.P. Sindhumol says despite the opportunity for parties to demonstrate their commitment to gender justice voluntarily, the status quo remains largely undisturbed.

"While the introduction of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam was met with unanimous support across party lines, this symbolic consensus has yet to catalyse a practical shift in political culture. Women are the backbone of day-to-day party activities, leading cultural initiatives, social welfare programmes, and grassroots mobilisation. But these women who are deemed indispensable for party are often overlooked when ticket distribution is discussed," she says.

EC-BJP nexus is evident: Mamata on letter row

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Tuesday raised ethical concerns over a Election Commission letter bearing the BJP symbol that surfaced in Kerala.

"Now the cat is out of the bag. The EC's notification clearly carries the BJP's symbol. The EC-BJP nexus is evident to everyone, then why the backdoor politics anymore?" she said.

Further, she said the EC officials cannot say the issue was due to a "clerical error" and shrug off responsibility. The Trinamool leader accused the electoral body and the BJP of attempting to snatch people's voting rights.

Meanwhile, Trinamool's second-in-command Mr. Banerjee also came down heavily on the EC for the lapse and said that if this kind of trajectory continues, the Supreme Court will also soon become politically coloured.

"Those sworn to protect the Constitution are now chipping away at its very foundations to serve narrow political ends. A betrayal of both duty and democracy. What a troubling decline for our institutions!" Mr. Banerjee further wrote on his social media handle.

Ahom heartland fight gets 'friendly' twist, as BJP fields candidate against ally AGP

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

A 'friendly' twist in the electoral contest in Sivasagar, the Ahom heartland of eastern Assam, has triggered a "fight to the finish" between allies of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The BJP made a last-minute move on Monday to field former extremist Kushal Dowari from the Sivasagar Assembly constituency, pitting him against a candidate from the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), which is also an NDA member.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said it was a "calibrated electoral call" to go for a "friendly contest", after discussions with the AGP.

The seat, now held by Raijor Dal president Akhil Gogoi, was one of 26 that the BJP had allotted to the AGP. Accordingly, the AGP nominated former Minister Prodip Hazarika, one of the main leaders of the anti-foreigners Assam Agitation of 1979-85, from the constituency.

Mr. Gogoi, a heavyweight of the Congress-led six-party Opposition alliance, is seeking re-election from Sivasagar, seen as a prestigious seat because of its status as the erstwhile capital of the Ahom dynasty that ruled large swathes of Assam for 600 years before British colonisation.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said it was a 'calibrated call' to go for a 'friendly contest', after discussions with the AGP. ANI

Sivasagar was headed for a straight contest between Mr. Gogoi and Mr. Hazarika, a sitting MLA currently representing the Amguri seat that was devoured by the 2023 delimitation exercise. The sudden entry of Mr. Dowari, once a dreaded gunman in the outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), has made it a triangular fight.

'Nothing friendly'

Mr. Hazarika said there was nothing 'friendly' in an electoral battle, indicating that a third candidate usually benefits from the division of votes between allies in such a contest. On March 20, after filing his nomination, he said he would take his fight forward with the support of everyone.

Mr. Dowari, a two-time MLA from the erstwhile Thowra constituency, made many voters uneasy by asserting that his entry would ensure the "political murder" of Mr. Gogoi. The latter retaliated by calling him the "biggest murderer", referring to his reported reign of terror before giving up arms.

"Sivasagar is a district of highly educated people. Why should they elect a person with blood on his hands? The BJP has insulted the people of Sivasagar by imposing him upon them," Mr. Gogoi said.

Mr. Dowari and Mr. Hazarika are first-timers from the constituency. The former won the Thowra seat in 2006 and 2016, while the latter has won Amguri five times.

Sivasagar sports the Rang Ghar, an amphitheatre of 1744 vintage that is an iconic cultural symbol of Assam. It was where the ULFA was formed in 1979.

Maximise seizures, intensify efforts: EC tells States and U.T.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Tuesday held a review meeting with senior officials from four poll-bound States and one Union Territory, as well as the 12 States that share boundaries with them, with a special focus on sealing the borders of neighbouring districts to maintain peace, two weeks before polling is set to begin.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners S.S. Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, reviewed the poll-preparedness and law and order situation, including the seizures of illegal cash, liquor, narcotics, and arms, inter-State check posts, and expenditure sensitive constituencies, ahead of the Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal and byelections in six States, an EC statement said.

'Violence-free polls'

Meeting with Chief Secretaries, Chief Electoral Officers, Directors-General of Police, and the heads of all enforcement agencies, among other officials, the EC directed them to ensure violence-free, intimidation-free, and inducement-free elections.

The poll-bound States briefed the commission about their overall preparation, law and order issues, and expenditure enforcement and any concerns or pending issues with Central agencies and neighbouring States.

Gyanesh Kumar reviewed the poll-preparedness and law and order situation. ANI

The neighbouring States were directed to take all possible steps to aid the poll-bound States/Union Territory, and special focus was placed on bordering districts and the sealing of boundaries to maintain peace and order.

Central agencies, including the Narcotics Control Bureau, Income Tax Department, Central Goods and Services Tax, and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, were directed to intensify their efforts in the run-up to the polls and maximise seizures of illegal cash, liquor, narcotics, and arms, based on actionable intelligence, the statement said.

INBRIEF

Nitish Kumar elected JD(U) president for the fourth time

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was elected national president of the Janata Dal (U) for the fourth time on Tuesday, ahead of his planned shift to Delhi as a newly elected Rajya Sabha member. As Mr. Kumar was the only candidate to file his nomination for the position, returning officer and former Rajya Sabha member Aneel Prasad Hegde issued the certificate after the last date to withdraw nominations. As the CM was busy reviewing development work in Rohtas and Kaimur district, as part of the Samriddhi Yatra, the certificate was recieved on his behalf at the party office in New Delhi by JD(U) working president and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Jha, Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, aka Lalan Singh, Bihar Minister Sharwan Kumar, and other party leaders.

Govt. seeks time for affidavit on Air India flight crash probe

The Union government on Tuesday said it needed a couple of days more to file an affidavit enumerating the stages of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) probe into the Air India Flight 171 crash and the current status. Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said the affidavit would have the details of the various phases of the investigation and "where it stands today". The crash near the Ahmedabad airport killed 12 crew members and 229 passengers on June 12 last year. The petitioners had argued that they did not mean to "apportion blame" but to unearth "what" caused the accident and to safeguard the future against such tragedies.

LS passes new transgender Bill as MPs stage walkout

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Amid an Opposition-led walkout, the Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed by voice vote the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, which proposes to remove transgender people's right to self-determination of gender, and introduces a clause for examination by a medical board to determine their gender.

The MPs who walked out of the House were from parties such as the Congress, Samajwadi Party, Trinamool Congress, DMK, Shiv Sena (UBT), Nationalist Congress Party, and the CPI(M). Congress whip Manickam Tagore said they walked out as they were "not satisfied with the reply" of the Minister on the Bill. Transgender rights groups, civil society leaders, and several prominent members of the community condemned the passing of the Bill as an "injustice".

Union Minister for Social Justice Virendra Kumar said the Bill sought to stop adults and children from being "forced or compelled" to become or present as transgender persons through hormone therapy or other interventions, and strengthened punishments for crimes against transgender persons. He said the Bill was aimed at empowering the transgender community.

SC flags long-term bias against women in the armed forces

The Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant upheld permanent commission and pensionary benefits for batches of women officers in the Army, the Air Force and the Navy

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Tuesday declared that systemic and long-held presumption that women officers had no substantive or long-term career in the armed forces led to an uneven playing field, crippling their chances for permanent commission.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant upheld permanent commission and consequent pensionary benefits for batches of women officers in the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy. The court upheld the women officers' right to equal opportunity and treatment and dignity in three separate judgments, all authored by the Chief Justice.

The SC upheld SSCWOs' right to equal career progression and permanent commission. PTI

The judgment

The appellant-women officers were represented by senior advocates Rekha Palli, V. Mohana, and Menaka Guruswamy, and advocates Pooja Dhar, Abhimanue Shrestha, Anshuman Ashok and Sudhanshu S. Pandey. Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati represented the Centre. The judgment found that the Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) of Short Service Commission Women Officers (SSCWOs) were graded casually for years, without adjudging their suitability for career progression, affecting their overall comparative merit with their male counterparts.

"Since they [SSCWOs] had no scope for career progression, the assessing officers graded their ACRs casually and gave them lower scores. This assumption resulted in a casual approach towards assessment, with higher grades being informally reserved for male SSCOs who were eligible for permanent commission (PC) and for whom such grades would materially affect their future prospects," Chief Justice Kant observed.

Opportunities in past

The Supreme Court said women officers were routinely assigned "average or middling scores". The cumulative consequence of the systemic low grading given to them, owing to no fault of theirs, found them in dire straits when events led to Supreme Court's multiple interventions and judgments upholding SSCWOs' right to equal career progress and PC in the Armed Forces.

"This phenomenon (low grading) came back to haunt the SSCWOs as they were subsequently and quite abruptly placed in a competition for PC with their male counterparts, who did not undergo such hindrances in grading over the course of their decade-long service. It is, therefore, not surprising to us that the differential treatment meted out to officers 'with a future' in the Army and those deemed to be without one has resulted in an unequal playing field," Chief Justice Kant observed. He agreed with the SSCWOs that they were neither incentivised nor recommended for various career-enhancing courses during their service. The result was a diminished service profile. The court found they were victims of "the consequences of unequal opportunity structures" within the Armed Forces.

SSCWO's Inclusion

"The inclusion of SSCWOs in the zone of consideration for PC is not a matter of discretion, but of Constitutional obligation. Any expectation to the contrary is inherently illegitimate. The claim made by the male SSCOs that they ought not to be considered alongside SSCWOs is liable to be outrightly and decisively rejected," the Supreme Court held. "In the instant case, when SSCWOs have been found to suffer the cumulative effects of an unfair evaluative regime, the invocation of the vacancy cap as a shield against remedial action would be unfair to sustain. Owing to this, the respondents' plea regarding the sanctity of the ceiling on vacancies falls flat," CJI Kant noted. It said the Armed Forces not hold any annual cap on PC vacancies "neither sacrosanct nor immutable".

PSLV setbacks will help in learning, says ISRO chief

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman V. Narayanan on Tuesday said he did not consider the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C61 and C62 missions as failures, but as opportunities to learn.

"Whenever there is a setback we don't consider it as a failure, but we consider it an opportunity to learn and strengthen our system," Dr. Narayanan said while inaugurating the 11th biennial conference of the ISRO Pensioners' Association here.

The PSLV-C61/EOS-09 was launched on May 18, 2025, but the mission could not be accomplished due to what the ISRO called at the time, "an observation in the third stage". The PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission, launched on January this year, also had proved to be a disappointment following "an anomaly" at the end of the PS3 stage.

Dr. Narayanan said the two PSLV flights had "marginally missed" their objectives. He recalled how the ISRO overcame the setback of first Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV) mission in the late 1970s, which failed to achieve its goal, and went on to script a major milestone with its 100th launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on January 29, 2025.

Days after SC allows withdrawal of care, Rana passes away

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Harish Rana as a student.

Days after the Supreme Court passed a judgment – the first of its kind in the country – allowing withdrawal of clinically-assisted nutrition and hydration (CANH) to Harish Rana, who had been in a vegetative state for 13 years, he passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi on Tuesday. The hospital, in a statement, said that Mr. Rana passed away at 4.10 p.m., adding that he was under the care of a dedicated team of doctors.

The judgment had been welcomed by the family, who said that no parent wanted to "see their son suffer".

Mr. Rana was 32. He had sustained severe injuries and had 100% quadriplegic disability after a fall from the fourth floor of a building when he was a student in 2013. After his death, his family is learnt to have donated his corneas and heart valves.

India, U.S. needn't agree on all issues to work together: Pentagon official

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Elbridge Colby

India and the U.S. desire an Indo-Pacific in which no one power can dominate, a senior Pentagon official, who did not make any reference to the Quad while detailing the Trump administration's policy for the region, said on Tuesday.

The official, U.S. Assistant Secretary in the Department of War (formerly Department of Defense) Elbridge Colby, is visiting Delhi amidst the war in West Asia, and spoke a day ahead of his talks with Ministry of Defence officials in the Defence Policy Group on Wednesday. While his speech praised India as an "essential partner" in the region, he said both countries had differences but did not need to agree on everything to "cooperate effectively".

"America's objective is to build a partnership between two great republics that will form critical pillars of maintaining a favourable and stable balance of power in this critical region," Mr. Colby told an audience of diplomats and foreign policy thinkers in Delhi. "A strong, confident India is not only good for the Indian people. It is good for Americans as well."

Strategic position

Mr. Colby added that India's importance in the Indo-Pacific region stems from its size and economic potential, and also from its geography and strategic position. "India possesses a long tradition of strategic autonomy and a growing capacity to shape events well beyond its borders. It is the largest republic in the world. Its success thus carries profound symbolic and political weight. It has formidable, self-reliant and capable military forces," he said.

Mr. Colby's comments come close on the heels of a controversial speech by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau earlier this month, where he had said the U.S. would not support India's economic rise as it did with China in the 2000s.

While Mr. Colby's remarks may be an attempt at damage control, he is expected to face some difficult questions on U.S. strategy during his meetings in Delhi, as the visit comes three weeks into the U.S.-Israel war with Iran, and the resultant energy and fertilizer shortages in India. In addition, reports that the U.S. and Iran could use Pakistan as a mediator or as a venue for talks have been a cause for concern.

Modi, Dissanayake hold discussions on 'energy cooperation'

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Tuesday had a telephone conversation to discuss the war in West Asia, the disruption in global supply chains, and the energy cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.

"This evening [March 24, 2026], I held a telephone conversation with Indian Prime Minister @narendramodi regarding the escalating situation in the Middle East. We discussed its impact on regional and global supply chains, as well as energy cooperation and regional security between our two nations," Mr. Dissanayake said in a post on 'X'.

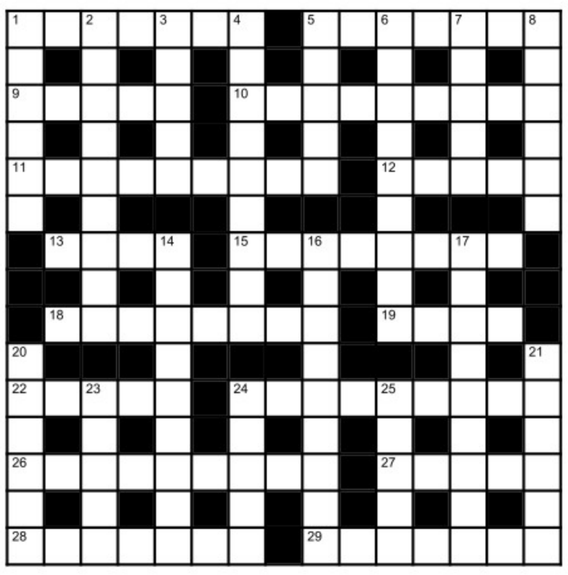
The telephone call was initiated by the Sri Lankan government, official sources told *The Hindu*, even as Colombo takes a series of measures to cope with the imminent energy crisis, including rationing fuel supply with a weekly quota for vehicles, and a sharp increase in fuel prices a few days ago. On Monday, Mr. Dissanayake instructed the officials to take "all possible measures" towards energy conservation, by raising public awareness on careful use of energy during the peak hours, a statement from his office said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14750

(set by Arden)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Army man's struggle for country (7)
5 The famous four live least bothered (7)
9 Big man Brown drinking vermouth (5)
10 Fancy hat priced so low (4,5)
11 Practising initially with one book daily (9)
12 Maybe Christopher's missing others on the mountain (5)
13 Made it back off a bit and fastened (4)
15 Japanese gambling on a breach in a river (8)
18 Check time in the heart of the ship (8)
19 Appropriate score (4)
22 Mercury transits symbol of female passivity and is hurrying off (5)
24 Type of fish on the rocky seashores (3,6)
26 Corporation's intent to make a list (9)
27 I had returned to old state (5)
28 Sister's travel counters (7)
29 Another thing that is meant to be a retirement cover (7)

Down

1 Could be remote visitor from the heavens (6)
2 Sits awkwardly in a fancy American car making highest pitch (9)
3 More detailed coverage of one in a villa (5)
4 Welcome sign of a communist reprimand (3,6)
5 Live on time - it could be felt (5)
6 Instrument with electric cable, no one to set up (9)
7 Some allege ill-treatment, rise against the sovereign (5)
8 Excellent sandwiches - pay first for an evening meal (6)
14 Female star billionaire strays (9)
16 Special screen with current input at regular intervals for a medical procedure (9)
17 Gives up on pastry - that should give an impetus (4,5)
20 Service without sin - how to stop barrage? (6)
21 Cash or easy payment option to acquire land (6)
23 One competes with climbers (5)
24 Avoids Dutch chicken on board (5)
25 Outstanding split opinion (5)

SUDOKU

6	9			8				2
		4	5		6			8
		8	9	1				
4		7					6	
2		9				5		1
	8					4		7
				6	9	1		
8			2		7	9		
9				4			7	6

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

T	B	C	N	K	C	O		
M	I	M	O	S	A	A	M	E	N	A	B	L	E
A	T	S	G	N	K	D		
E	M	I	T	H	E	A	V	Y	M	E	T	A	L
A	O	C	A	W	G			
P	R	I	M	A	R	I	L	Y	B	A	G	E	L
I	O	A	G	L				
T	A	L	K	P	A	P	E	R	K	Y	I	V	
N	S	S	E	N				
A	P	R	I	L	M	E	T	A	V	E	R	S	E
L	T	I	T	N	T			
E	A	S	T	I	N	D	I	E	S	C	L	I	P
Z	I	L	R	E	O	N		
S	A	N	N	Y	A	S	I	A	F	R	I	C	A
S	G	Y	S	L	E	T		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	3	1	5	4	8	9	2	6
4	2	8	9	6	3	1	7	5
5	6	9	7	1	2	3	8	4
1	7	2	8	3	5	6	4	9
9	8	5	6	2	4	7	3	1
6	4	3	1	9	7	2	5	8
2	5	6	4	7	1	8	9	3
8	1	7	3	5	9	4	6	2
3	9	4	2	8	6	5	1	7

FAITH

Murugan grants liberation

Without Lord Murugan's grace, we cannot attain liberation, said So.So. Meenakshisundaram in a discourse. He appears differently to different categories of devotees. There are four methods of worship – *sariyai*, *kiriyai*, *yogam* and *jnanam*. *Sariyai* means serving in temples. Murugan shows His beautiful form to those who perform *sariyai*, that is those who serve the Lord in temples. *Kiriyai* is making arrangements for proper worship of Murugan at home. For those involved in *kiriyai*, He shows His form and also makes them realise His formlessness. For those engaged in *yoga*, He remains the formless One to be realised by them. Jnanis see Murugan in everything. To them Murugan appears as a brilliant light. Murugan is there for those who deny His existence, just as He is there for those who believe in Him. He is inside everything and yet is beyond everything. We can reach Him only through His grace.

Some say the world is a place full of joy. Some say it is a place full of sorrow. Some yearn for moksha. Arunagirinatha urges us to worship Muruga, who holds the vel, which is the embodiment of jnana. In Kandar Anubhuti, till verse 14, Arunagirinatha talks to his *manas*. In verse 15, he talks to Murugan, and addresses Him as Muruga, Kumara and Guha. Thiruppugazh says that if you utter the name Muruga once, He will place His feet on your head. Tamil consonants are placed in three categories – *mellinam*, *idaiyinam* and *vallinam*. M is *mellinam*, r is *idaiyinam* and k is *vallinam*. The name Murugan (Murukan) is special, because it has all three categories of consonants. Murugan is Kumaran, because He is always youthful.

INBRIEF

New India Assurance gets ₹189.37 cr I-T demand order

New India Assurance Company has been issued an assessment order by the Income Tax Department asking it to pay more than ₹189.37 crore. The order for ₹1,89,37,08,470 is for AY 2023-24 and issued by the National Faceless e Assessment Center disallowing certain expenses, New India Assurance said in a filing on Tuesday. The company said it would pursue an appeal before NFAC or other legal options against the said order.

HDFC Life Insurance gets Income Tax order for ₹172 cr.

HDFC Life Insurance Company has received an Income Tax order asking it to pay a little over ₹172 crore. Consisting of ₹126.46 crore tax demand, ₹45.55 crore interest and nil penalty, the order from the Income Tax authorities in Mumbai is for Assessment Year 2023-24 (financial year 2022-23) and related to multiple alleged violations. The company will file an appeal before the Appellate Authority, HDFC Life said in a filing on Tuesday.

Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust gets listed on the BSE

The National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) Raajmarga Infrastructure Investment Trust (RIIT) was listed on the BSE on Tuesday, in the presence of Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari. The InvIT is aimed at widening investor participation in the highway infra sector. Calling the listing a "significant milestone," Mr. Gadkari said the issue saw strong demand, with subscriptions reaching nearly 14 times the offer size.

Assam floats tender for satellites to monitor floods

Chief Minister Sarma announced the project in the 2025-26 State Budget; The procurement is for at least five satellites in low-earth orbit

Kunal Shankar
Vasudevan Mukunth
CHENNAI

Assam has become the first Indian State to float a tender for a group of earth-observation satellites that it says will strengthen disaster response along the flood-prone Brahmaputra valley and help survey the State's borders.

The Assam Science Technology and Environment Council issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) on March 16 inviting private aerospace companies to design, build, launch, operate, and eventually transfer the satellites to State ownership. The mission has been named AssamSAT.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the project in the 2025-26 State Budget as a means to achieve what he has repeatedly described as an "infiltration-free Assam".

Mr. Sarma has argued that conventional border fencing is inadequate for the State's *chars*, the seasonally inundated river islands along the Bangladesh border, and that real-time satellite monitoring is the sole practical alternative.

The procurement is structured around at least five satellites in low-earth orbit. The brief EOI doesn't say whether the satellites will operate separately or together, in a constellation. Per the brief, qualifying parties can avail the full EOI for a fee of ₹30,000.

Assuming it's a constellation, the satellites will be able to scan the same part of the ground once every few hours and map it at high resolution – a useful task for disaster response during floods, where the extent of waters can change within hours.

The EOI also doesn't specify the sensors the satellites will carry. But since the State has cloudy weather for almost half the year, the satellites may carry synthetic aperture radars (SAR), whose gaze can pierce clouds and darkness.

Currently, State disaster management agencies seeking satellite data must submit requests to the National Remote Sensing Centre, which will process and fulfill those requests.

The State sits close to the Siliguri Corridor, a strip of land colloquially called the chicken's neck that physically connects the Northeast to the rest of India, and which State and Central security agencies have been preoccupied with monitoring.

Mr. Sarma has also extended the satellite's mandate to include tracking drug-trafficking routes and monitoring poaching in the Kaziranga National Park.

In 2024, NewSpace India, Ltd. cleared a private-sector earth observation constellation led by Dhruva Space and Pixxel.

The plan combines small satellites carrying optical and hyperspectral sensors in low-earth orbit to deliver near real-time imagery for agriculture, disaster response, and national security users while being owned and operated by industry.

Third eye

Assam has become the first Indian State to float a tender for a group of earth-observation satellites

- The move is aimed at strengthening disaster response along the flood-prone Brahmaputra valley
- Chief Minister Biswa Sarma argued that conventional border fencing is inadequate, and real-time satellite monitoring is the sole practical alternative

- The satellites will be able to scan the same part of the ground once every few hours and map it at high resolution

Benchmark indices up 1.7% in relief after continued rout

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Markets bounced back by more than 1.5% on Tuesday after weeks of continued rout since the beginning of the Iran-U.S. war and after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a temporary halt on strikes targeting Iranian energy infrastructure.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,372.06 points or 1.89% to settle at 74,068.45. During the day, it soared 1,793 points or 2.46% to 74,489.39.

The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 399.75 points or 1.78% to end at 22,912.40.

Despite being the best session of the week, the Nifty has slipped 11.45% since February 24, when it closed at 25,424.65 points.

Markets have also become considerably cheaper in terms of price-to-earnings ratio in the past month. Unlike in the past weeks when an improving market did not keep up the optimism, both indices traded consistently up by 0.8% to 1.5% throughout the day before closing.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,372.06 points or 1.89% to settle at 74,068.45

The rally was broad-based with 2,480 shares improving and just 805 declining of the 3,369 stocks that traded on Tuesday.

Brent oil futures also dipped slightly to ₹99.57 a barrel, coming below ₹100 after touching $114 a barrel last week.

"Today's bounce [back] kindles hopes for a sustained pull-back, but follow-through gains are needed to signal a trend reversal," said Vinay Rajani, Senior Technical Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

(With PTI inputs)

HDFC Bank appoints 4 law firms to probe ex-Chairman's resignation

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

HDFC Bank on Tuesday said that it had appointed law firms, reportedly Trilegal and Wadia Ghandy & Co., and an international law firm to investigate and submit a report on the reasons cited by its former part-time Chairman, Atanu Chakraborty, in his resignation letter last week.

"Appointment of external law firms is a proactive measure taken by the Bank to independently look at the aspects mentioned in the letter to ensure an objective and fact-based assessment. This step is keeping in view to constantly benchmark with the highest governance standards that the Bank has practised over decades," the bank said. The law firms 'have been advised to provide a report within a reasonable period of time,' the bank added.

On Tuesday HDFC Bank shares gained 2.88% to close at ₹765.15 on the BSE.

Truckers invoke force majeure amid fuel shortage, decline in cargo flow

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Truckers have invoked force majeure to seek a temporary suspension of contracted freight rates and a shift to spot pricing, citing severe operational disruptions driven by fuel shortages, supply chain constraints and a sharp decline in cargo flows from ports. In an advisory issued on March 24, the All India Transporters' Welfare Association (AITWA) urged customers and trade partners to keep long-term freight contracts in abeyance at least till April 30 and allow shipments to move on mutually agreed spot market rates.

Manipal Health to raise ₹8,000 crore via IPO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Manipal Health Enterprise Ltd., backed by Singapore's Temasek, has filed Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI on Tuesday to raise ₹8,000 crore through an IPO.

The IPO also comprises offer-for-sale of up to 43,227,668 equity shares by promoters viz. Imperius Healthcare Investments, Manipal Education and Medial Group India and existing investors, including TPG and Novo Holdings.

The proceeds would mainly be used to repay debt with ₹5,378 crore for repayment in full or part of outstanding borrowings/ accrued interest availed by Manipal Hospitals Pvt. Ltd.

MSL mulls ₹10,189-cr. capacity expansion

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The board of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. (MSL) approved addition of first phase of capacity of 2,50,000 vehicles per annum at Khoraj Industrial Estate in Gujurat involving an investment of ₹10,189 crore which will be met via internal accruals.

The additional capacity would help meet demand growth, including exports.

Common infrastructure

"This includes investment for the first phase of car manufacturing plant having an annual manufacturing capacity of 2,50,000 units and some common infrastructure and facilities for future plants," the company said.

The company's total existing capacity is about 24 lakh units per annum at Gurugram, Manesar, Kharkhoda and Hansalpur, with a capability to produce 26 lakh units per annum.

The additional capacity would help meet demand growth.

This includes the units produced at erstwhile Suzuki Motor Gujarat Private Limited which has been amalgamated with the Company. The existing capacity is fully utilised, according to the company.

Nasscom honours 25 SMEs for innovation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's technology small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are currently at a pivotal moment, actively rebuilding growth models, re-imagining capabilities and redefining talent strategies for an AI-shaped world, said Srikanth Srinivasan, VP and head, membership and outreach at Nasscom on Tuesday.

Nasscom on Tuesday recognised 25 small and medium enterprises for significant contributions to India's technology SME ecosystem. These enterprises, winners of the 4th edition of the SME Inspire Awards 2026, were recognised for excellence, innovation and resilience.

Mahanagar Gas woos LPG users for PNG shift

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Mahanagar Gas Ltd. (MGL), a City Gas Distribution (CGD) company, stepped up efforts to shift customers using LPG to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) offering uninterrupted supply and sops. It is also offering Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport across its geographical areas (GAs) in Maharashtra and Karnataka. In line with the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order 2026, domestic PNG and CNG have been recognised as the highest priority sector.

MGL has taken steps for consistent supply to ensure clients get reliable and safe fuel for daily use. Alongside, MGL unveiled customer-focused initiatives to hasten PNG adoption in the GAs, including offering free gas worth ₹500 to all new registrations and ₹1,000 adjustment in gas bills from new buildings where penetration is over 60%.

For commercial customers, MGL is waiving registration charges.

राजस्थान राज्य पाठ्यपुस्तक मण्डल, जयपुर
2–2,ए झालाना डूंगरी,जयपुर
फोन 0141–2711237, 2703657, 2700540 फैक्स: 0141–2710362
email: secretary.rstb@rajasthan.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM

बिड संख्या 369 दिनांक 05.03.2026 में विभिन्न दिनांकों में संशोधन किया गया जिसका विवरण राजकीय पोर्टल/वेबसाइट https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in और https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।
राज.संवाद/सी/25/23127 सचिव

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE No. AD/SH-188/12(Vol.IV)/ 816 Dtd. 17.03.2026
Name of the work:-**"Providing Hospitality services to Jawahar Guest House, Sector-21, Paradip and PPA Guest House, Bhubaneswar"**. Estimated cost put to tender **₹ 3,01,60,961.00 (excluding GST @18% & Contractor's Commission)**. The last date & time of submission of bid is **30.03.2026 upto 1700 Hrs**. for details please refer our website : **www.paradipport.gov.in/ https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**
Asst. Secretary (Admn.), PPA
PPA/PR/76/2025-2026, dt.24/03/2026

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
Tender Notice No. RWF/S/P2/20/2025-26 Dated 23/03/2026
On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager invites Electronic Open Tender for supply of the following item, on the Indian Railways e-portal www.ireps.gov.in.
Tender Number and Brief Item Description : P2255913B, Magnesia Spinel Brick Set for Ladle Lining as per RWF Specification. (Developmental Tender). **Quantity :** 25 Sets. **Tender Closing Date and Time :** 09/04/2026, 14:00 hrs.
TENDER NOTICE NO.RWF/S/P1/020/ 2025-26 dt:24.03.2026
Tender Number and Brief Item Description : P1261178, Tin coated Spiral machine Taps. **Quantity :** 1400 Nos. **Due Date :** 10/04/2026.
Tender details can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in or www.ireps.gov.in. The tender documents and the corrigendum to the Tender if any, will be available on the portal only.
Principal Chief Materials Manager

PUNJAB STATE GRAINS PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LIMITED ANAAJ BHAWAN, SECTOR 39-C, CHANDIGARH
Notice Inviting Tender
PUNGRAIN invites bids under two bid system i.e. Technical and Financial bids from eligible bidders interested for engagement as Service Provider(s) to provide Preservation, Maintenance, and Security (PMS) services for food grains stored in PEG godowns constructed & hired/ to be constructed & hired by PUNGRAIN & MARKFED on 'lease only basis' under Private Entrepreneur Guarantee 2008 scheme of GOI/FCI; covered godowns owned/ hired by the State Procuring Agencies i.e. PUNGRAIN, PUNSUP, and MARKFED & further leased to FCI on GHB basis for storage of rice and CAP (Cover and Plinth) constructed & hired/ to be hired on 'lease only basis' by PUNGRAIN under CAP hiring Scheme-2019.
For details log onto: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in or http://foodsuppb.gov.in
Bid submission period: From 02:00 PM on 25.03.2026 till 3:00 PM on 09.04.2026.
Pre-bid Conference: On 30.03.2026 at 11:00 AM in the O/o PUNGRAIN, Committee room, Anaaj Bhawan, Sector 39-C, Chandigarh.
Technical Bid Opening date & time: At 04:00 PM on 09.04.2026.
Note: 1. PUNGRAIN reserves the right to scrap the tender at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.
2. Any addendum/corrigendum(s) to the tender shall be published on the above websites only.
1027/12/2025-26/9833 **Managing Director, PUNGRAIN**

सीएसआईआर–संरचनात्मक अभियांत्रिकी अनुसंधान केंद्र
CSIR-STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTRE
(वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद् Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
सीएसआईआर परिसर CSIR Campus, तरमणि Taramani, चेन्नै Chennai - 600 113, भारत INDIA
दूरभाष Tel : 044 - 2254 9108 / 4777, 22541238 फैक्स Fax : 044-22542211
ई-मेल E-mail : puroff.serc@csir.res.in

जिस किसी से भी यह संबंधित हो TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

यह सूचित किया जाता है कि ग्राहकों से प्राप्त कुछ परीक्षण सामग्री वर्ष 2006-2011 की अवधि के दौरान प्राप्त हुई थी, जो 10 वर्षों से अधिक समय से सीएसआईआर-एसईआरसी, टीटीआरएस, पल्लावरम, चेन्नई परिसर में पड़ी हुई है तथा स्थान घेर रही है।

It is informed that certain testing materials received from clients are lying in the campus (CSIR-SERC, TTRS, Pallavaram, Chennai) for more than 10 years (during the period 2006 - 2011) and occupying space.

संबंधित ग्राहकों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे इस नोटिस के जारी होने की तिथि से 30 दिनों के भीतर उपरोक्त परिसर से अपनी परीक्षण सामग्री, जमा करने का प्रमाण प्रस्तुत करते हुए, हटा लें। अन्यथा उक्त सामग्री को अदावी सामग्री माना जाएगा तथा सीएसआईआर एसईआरसी द्वारा उसकी नीलामी कर दी जाएगी। इसके पश्चात किसी भी प्रकार का कोई दावा स्वीकार नहीं किया जाएगा।

The respective clients are advised to remove their testing material from the above campus within 30 days of this notice by showing proof of submission, failing which it will be treated as unclaimed goods and will be auctioned by CSIR-SERC. No claim of any kind shall be entertained after that.

अधिक जानकारी के लिए कृपया हमारी वेबसाइट देखें : **https://serc.res.in**
For details please visit our website : https://serc.res.in
भंडार एवं क्रय नियंत्रक
Controller of Stores & Purchase

AC firms stare at war induced plastic pinch

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Air-conditioner firms in India are looking forward to FY27 with hope as West Asia war threatens to hit plastic component availability and consumer sentiment, adding to the challenges around input prices and new energy label, a top company official said.

Difficult to get

Lots of plastic components are becoming difficult to get in the backdrop of the war impact on crude supplies. The additional price increase on this count though is early to assess for the AC makers feeling the heat of an increase in prices of raw materials such as copper, aluminium, refrigerant, steel and packaging material. Energy label norm change also translated into more input usage.

The GST rationalisation did provide some relief, but not enough to stop the AC makers from passing on the burden of higher raw material price, especially given the competitive market and thin margins in which they operate. A price increase of 7-8% seems inevitable, something never seen before in the air-conditioning industry, Blue Star group president-unitary cooling products Mohit Sud said.

JSL starts Indonesia steel melt shop

To further boost cold rolling capacities, JSL earmarked a sum of ₹900 crore at Hisar and Kharagpur

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSL) said it commissioned the 1.2 million tonne per annum (MTPA) stainless steel melt shop (SMS) in Indonesia, developed through the company's joint venture, ahead of schedule.

JSL's total melting capacity will hence be ramped up to 4.2 MTPA, including 3 MTPA in India.

JSL said it was also gearing up to commission a new 1.1 MTPA Hot Rolled Annealed Pickled (HRAP) line and 0.17 MTPA Cold Rolling capacity in Jajpur and Odisha by Q4FY27 and Q2FY27 respectively.

This development is part of the earlier announced outlay of ₹ 1,900 crore. To further boost cold rolling capacities, JSL earmarked ₹900 crore at Hisar and Kharagpur, which are expected to be commissioned by Q2FY28.

The new and expanded downstream facilities will enable the production of thinner cold rolled products tailored for high-growth industries.

BEIRUT

Lebanon withdraws Iran envoy's accreditation, orders him to leave

AFP

Lebanon's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday it had withdrawn its approval of the Iranian ambassador Mohammad Reza Sheibani's accreditation, giving him until Sunday to leave the country. It had also summoned Lebanon's ambassador to Iran "in light of what Lebanon described as Tehran's violation of diplomatic norms". AFP

ABIDJAN

New jihadist attack on military post in Burkina kills 14 soldiers

AP

A jihadist attack on a military post killed at least 14 soldiers in northern Burkina Faso, which has seen a flare-up in violence in recent weeks, security officials said on Tuesday. Al-Qaeda's branch in the Sahel, the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM), claimed responsibility for the attack in Bagade on Saturday. AFP

GENEVA

'More than 500 civilians killed in drone strikes this year in Sudan'

AFP

More than 500 civilians were killed in drone strikes in Sudan between January and mid-March, with the vast majority killed in the strategic Kordofan region, the United Nations said on Tuesday. Kordofan region is currently the fiercest battlefield in the three-year war between the regular army and the Rapid Support Forces. AFP

WASHINGTON

Senate confirms Markwayne Mullin to lead Homeland Security

AFP

The Senate confirmed Markwayne Mullin as Homeland Security secretary late Monday, approving U.S. President Donald Trump's nominee to take over the embattled department after the firing of Kristi Noem during a public backlash over the administration's immigration enforcement and mass deportation operations. AP

Iran, Israel trade strikes despite Trump's claims of negotiations

Israel carries out a 'large wave' of air strikes across Iran's territory, hitting what it calls military 'production sites' and energy infrastructure; Iranian missiles and drones strike Tel Aviv, wounding four; Tehran reports more than 1,500 dead in the war

Associated Press
DUBAI

Air strikes battered Iran, and Iranian missiles and drones targeted Israel's Tel Aviv and sites across the West Asia on Tuesday, even as President Donald Trump said the United States was in talks with the Islamic Republic to end the war.

With thousands more U.S. Marines on their way to the Gulf, both sides firing barrages and Iran denying any negotiations are taking place, the war's tempo remained high a day after Mr. Trump delayed his self-imposed deadline for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran's chokehold on that crucial waterway has snarled international shipping, sent fuel prices skyrocketing, and threatened the world economy. Pakistan offered to host diplomatic talks, but Iran remained defiant, vowing to fight "until complete victory".

Retaliatory strike: Israeli emergency service personnel gather at the site of an Iranian missile strike in Tel Aviv on Tuesday. AFP

Israel's army on Tuesday said it had conducted a "large wave" of air strikes across several areas of Iran, which had earlier launched a "direct hit" on a building in an upscale area of Tel Aviv. It added that it carried out an extensive series of strikes on Iranian "production sites," without providing more information.

Iranian media reported that Israeli-U.S. strikes targeted two gas facilities and a pipeline. "As part of the ongoing attacks carried out by the Zionist and American enemy, the gas administration building and the gas pressure regulation station on Kaveh Street in Isfahan were targeted," the *Fars* news agency said. It added that an attack also targeted the gas pipeline of the Khorramshahr plant. Iran's death toll has surpassed 1,500, its Health Ministry has said.

Iran also fired multiple waves of missiles at Israel. In Tel Aviv, a missile with a 100 kg warhead slammed into the city centre, blowing out windows of an apartment building. Four persons suffered minor wounds, rescue service workers said. Late on Tuesday, Israeli emergency services said a woman was killed in the north of the country following rocket fire from Lebanon.

Ex-Guardsman Zolqadr is Iran's new security chief

Stanly Johny

Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr, a veteran commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), has been appointed as the new Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

Mr. Zolqadr, who currently serves as the secretary of Expediency Discernment Council, an advisory body to the Supreme Leader, replaces Ali Larijani, who was assassinated by an Israeli strike on March 17.

"Zolqadr has been appointed to the top security chair by a direct presidential decree and with the endorsement of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei," state-run Press TV reported.

Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr

He previously served as deputy chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces for Basij, a paramilitary organisation, and held senior positions in the judiciary.

Larijani, one of the most influential non-clerical politicians in Iran, had emerged as the face of the country's defiance after the U.S. and Israel started a war on Iran on February 28, assassinating Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

Mr. Zolqadr, who fought the 1980-88 war against Saddam Hussein's Iraq, headed the IRGC Joint Staff for eight years during the presidency of Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

In 2005, after Mahmoud Ahmadinejad became President, Mr. Zolqadr was named Deputy Interior Minister for security and police. He became an adviser to Chief Justice Sadeq Larijani in 2010, and appointed the deputy Judiciary chief for strategic affairs on 14 May 2012. He became the Secretary of the powerful Expediency Council in 2023, when Ebrahim Raisi was the President.

As the secretary of the Security Council, Mr. Zolqadr will play a key role in decision making at a time when Iran is at war against the U.S. and Israel.

Israel to 'take control of security zone' up to Litani in Lebanon

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Tuesday that the military would take control of south Lebanon all the way to the Litani River.

"All five bridges over the Litani that were used by Hezbollah for the passage of terrorists and weapons have been blown up, and the IDF (Israeli military) will control the rest of the bridges and the security zone up to the Litani," Mr. Katz said during a visit to a military command centre in Israel.

The military said it had destroyed a bridge across the Litani river overnight, which it says was used by Iran-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah "for transferring weapons, rockets and launchers".

Mr. Katz added that the hundreds of thousands of south Lebanon residents who were displaced by the West Asia war this month "will not return south of the Litani River until security is guaranteed for the residents of the north" of Israel.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Health Ministry said that an Israeli strike on Bshamoun, south of Beirut, killed two persons on Tuesday, while strikes on the capital's southern suburbs continued throughout the night.

Brains and brawn

Athletes attempt to control a zebu that has been brought into an arena during a Savika Omby competition in Antananarivo. Savika Omby, a form of bullfighting, is a traditional Malagasy sport most often practised in rural areas on the Highlands of Madagascar. AFP

Russia fires over 400 drones at Ukraine; four killed, 27 injured

Associated Press
KYIV

A major Russian drone and missile attack on civilian areas of Ukraine killed four persons and injured at least 27, officials said on Tuesday, while Moscow's army stepped up efforts to break through Ukrainian front-line defences in what could be the start of an anticipated spring ground offensive.

Russia fired almost 400 long-range drones at Ukraine overnight, Ukraine's air force said, in its biggest attack in weeks. The onslaught continued into Tuesday morning as dozens of drones targeted the capital Kyiv during daylight.

A building in Lviv on fire after a Russian missile strike. AP

Russia also launched 23 cruise missiles and seven ballistic missiles at Ukraine during the night, hitting at least 10 locations across the country, according to the air force.

Russia has escalated its strikes on Ukraine since March 17.

China maps the ocean floor as it prepares for submarine warfare with U.S.

Reuters
SYDNEY

China is conducting a vast undersea mapping and monitoring operation across the Pacific, Indian and Arctic oceans, building detailed knowledge of marine conditions that naval experts say would be crucial for waging submarine warfare against the United States and its allies.

In one example, the *Dong Fang Hong 3*, a research vessel operated by Ocean University of China, spent 2024 and 2025 sailing back and forth in the seas near Taiwan and the U.S. stronghold of Guam, and around strategic stretches of the Indian Ocean, ship-tracking data reviewed by *Reuters* shows. In October 2024, it checked on a set of powerful Chinese ocean sensors capable of identifying undersea objects near Japan, according to Ocean University, and visited the same area again last May. And in March 2025, it crisscrossed the waters between Sri Lanka and Indonesia, covering approaches to the Malacca Strait, a critical chokepoint for maritime commerce.

According to the university, the ship was carrying out mud surveys and climate research. But a scientific paper co-written by Ocean University academics shows it has also conducted extensive deep-sea mapping. Naval-warfare experts and U.S. Navy officials say the type of deep-sea data being collected by the *Dong Fang Hong 3* - via mapping and placement of sensors in the ocean - is giving China a picture of the subsea conditions it would need to deploy its submarines more effectively and hunt down those of its adversaries.

The *Dong Fang Hong 3* isn't operating alone. It is part of a broader ocean mapping and monitoring operation involving dozens of research vessels and hundreds of sensors. In tracing this effort, *Reuters* examined Chinese government and university records, including journal articles and scientific studies, and analysed more than five years of movement by 42 research vessels active in the Pacific, Indian or Arctic oceans using a ship-tracking platform built by New Zealand company Starboard Maritime Intelligence.

Dong Fang Hong 3, a deep-sea research vessel, docks at a pier in Qingdao, Shandong province, China. REUTERS

While the research has civilian purposes - some of the surveying covers fishing grounds or areas where China has mineral prospecting contracts - it also serves a military one, according to nine naval-warfare experts who reviewed *Reuters*' findings.

To gather information about underwater terrain, research vessels map the sea floor while travelling back and forth in tight lines. The tracking data shows that type of movement by the vessels *Reuters* tracked across large sections of the Pacific, Indian and Arctic oceans.

At least eight of the vessels *Reuters* tracked have conducted seabed mapping, while another 10 have carried equipment used for mapping, according to a review of Chinese state media articles, vessel descriptions published by Chinese universities, and press releases by government organisations.

The vessels' survey data "would be potentially invaluable in preparation of the battlespace" for Chinese submarines, said Peter Scott, a former chief of Australia's submarine force. "Any military submariner worth his salt will put a great deal of effort into understanding the environment he's operating in."

The ship-tracking data show that China's seabed-surveying effort is focused in part on militarily important waters around the Philippines, near Guam and Hawaii, and near U.S. military facilities on Wake atoll in the north Pacific.

"The scale of what they're doing is about more than just resources," said Jennifer Parker, an adjunct professor of defence and security at the University of Western Australia and former Australian anti-submarine warfare officer. "If you look at the sheer extent of it, it's very clear that they intend to have an expeditionary blue-water naval capability that also is built around submarine operations."

In testimony to a congressional commission this month, Rear Admiral Mike Brookes, the commander of the U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence, said China had dramatically expanded its surveying efforts, providing data that "enables submarine navigation, concealment, and positioning of seabed sensors or weapons". He added that "potential military intelligence collection" by Chinese research vessels "represents a strategic concern". America recently overhauled its own efforts to map and monitor the ocean, but it typically does so with military vessels that are allowed to turn off the tracking system monitored by civilian software. China's civilian survey ships also sometimes disable tracking, meaning its campaign may go further than *Reuters* could determine. This is the first time the extent of China's mapping and monitoring across the Pacific, Indian and Arctic oceans has been reported.

PAYING TRIBUTE

RCB to wear #11 jersey and leave 11 seats empty in honour of victims

FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The Royal Challengers Bengaluru players will sport jersey No. 11 in the warm-up session ahead of the IPL season's first match against Sunrisers Hyderabad on March 28. The defending champion also plans to keep 11 seats empty in honour of the fans who died in a stampede outside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium last year.

LATE WITHDRAWAL

DC opener Duckett pulls out of IPL to focus on red-ball cricket

REUTERS

Delhi Capitals opener Ben Duckett has decided to pull out of IPL 2026. As per the amended rules, the Englishman will face a two-year ban from the league and auction. Duckett was acquired by Capitals for ₹2 crore in the mini auction, but the 31-year-old now wants to spend time at home and play red-ball cricket.

REPLACEMENTS

CSK brings in Johnson in place of injured Ellis; SRH signs Payne

FILE PHOTO

CSK has signed Australia left-arm pacer Spencer Johnson, *in pic.*, as a replacement for Nathan Ellis, who was ruled out of the IPL due to a hamstring injury. Johnson recently pulled out of the PSL and will join CSK for ₹1.5 crore. Meanwhile, SRH has named England pacer David Payne as replacement for the injured Jack Edwards.

SHUTTLE TIME

Lakshya, Sindhu to lead the Indian challenge in Thomas & Uber Cup

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The squad: Men: Lakshya Sen, Ayush Shetty, K. Srikanth, H.S. Prannoy, Kiran George, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, A. Hariharan, M.R. Arjun, Dhruv Kapila. **Women:** P.V. Sindhu, Unnati Hooda, Tanvi Sharma, Devika Sihag, Isharani Baruah, Treesa Jolly, Gayatri Gopichand, Kavipriya Selvam, Simran Singhi, Tanisha Crasto.

Tackling resource crunch a big task for Knight Riders

The Kolkata team's bowling department looks depleted after injuries to medium-pacers Harshit and Akash Deep; the strong batting unit has the wherewithal to make up lost ground

Y.B. Sarangi

Even before beginning its IPL 2026 campaign, a formidable-looking Kolkata Knight Riders has run into bumps in the road due to injuries to some of its key pacers.

With Akash Deep ruled out, Harshit Rana's participation doubtful and Sri Lankan Matheesha Pathirana – a high-value asset who commanded ₹18 crore in the mini-auction – recovering from a calf strain, Knight Riders' pace department faces a resource crunch.

Muzarabani a Blessing

In such a scenario, all-rounder Cameron Green, the Kolkata outfit's costliest acquisition, will play a vital role.

Zimbabwe's Muzarabani, who replaced Mustafizur Rahman, can prove to be a Blessing because of the form he is in – the pacer scalped 13 wickets in the T20 World Cup.

The three-time champion's Indian fast-bowling recruits, the dependable Vaibhav Arora and the promising Kartik Tyagi, need to chip in when needed.

Its proven spin duo of Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravarthy must live up to its reputation. KKR will hope that Varun, who lost a bit of his magic in the T20 World Cup, gets his mojo back.

Knight Riders would also like to see its batting unit make up lost ground. The presence of explosive openers Tim Seifert and Finn Allen provides luxury at the top, but the question is whether the team can accommodate both the Kiwis along with captain Ajinkya Rahane in the top-three.

As the leader, Rahane, KKR's top run-getter last season (390 with a strike rate of almost 148), got mixed reviews as the side struggled after its crowning glory and missed its 2024 title-winning captain Shreyas Iyer. But the former India Test skipper is up for the challenge.

Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Green, part of the middle-order, are expected to provide the impetus. Rinku Singh, whose role will be critical, and Ramandeep Singh are likely to wear the 'finisher' hats.

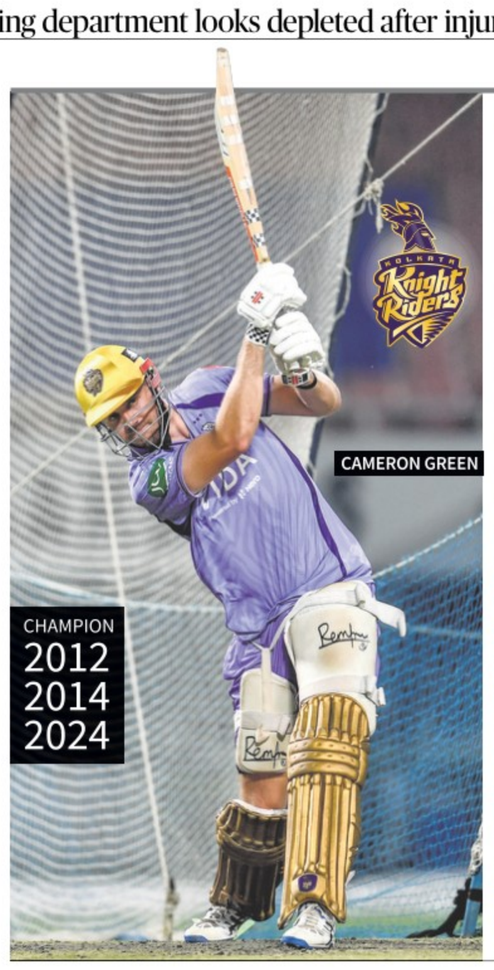
Where will Narine bat?

While Rahul Tripathi remains a good back-up, Narine needs to be given a slot where he can execute his pinch-hitting ability and annoy the opposition.

KKR will look to put up big scores at Eden Gardens to maximise its home advantage and give itself a better chance of making it to the playoffs despite the odds.

Handling mini-crisis

With fine cricketing brains operating its think-tank, Knight Riders should find a way out of the mini-crisis quickly as it may play most of its home matches prior to the impending state elections in late April.



IPL-19 COUNTDOWN

Kolkata Knight Riders

OVERALL NUMBERS

M	W	L	NR
265	136	127	2

BY OPPONENT

	M	W	L	NR
CSK	31	**11**	20	0
DC	34	**19**	15	0
GT	4	**1**	3	0
LSG	6	**2**	4	0
MI	35	**11**	24	0
PBKS	35	**21**	13	1
RCB	35	**20**	15	0
RR	31	**16**	14	1
SRH	30	**20**	10	0

Knight Riders' remaining matches were against Deccan Chargers (9), PWI (5), GL (4), RPS (4) and KTK (2)

KKR's 2026 LEAGUE CAMPAIGN*

March 29	vs. MI	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
April 2	vs. SRH	Kolkata	7.30 p.m.
April 6	vs. PBKS	Kolkata	7.30 p.m.
April 9	vs. LSG	Kolkata	7.30 p.m.

**annnounced so far*

MIRACLE MAN

Cameron Green: KKR will look to make best use of the 26-year-old all-rounder, who became the most expensive overseas player in the IPL with a whopping ₹25.20 crore price tag. Even though the towering Aussie, with a batting strike rate of 148.36, looks an ideal replacement for Andre Russell, he could play a different role. As the Kolkata outfit is struggling with injuries to some of its speedsters, Green could be a key component in the pace department.

THE SQUAD

Ajinkya Rahane (Capt.), Rinku Singh (Vice-capt.), Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Cameron Green, Manish Pandey, Rahul Tripathi, Ramandeep Singh, Anukul Roy, Daksh Kamra, Rachin Ravindra, Rovman Powell, Sarthak Ranjan, Sunil Narine, Finn Allen, Tejasvi Singh, Tim Seifert, Blessing Muzarabani, Kartik Tyagi, Matheesha Pathirana, Prashant Solanki, Umran Malik, Vaibhav Arora, Varun Chakaravarthy and Saurabh Dubey.

COMPILED BY G. PRASAD & Y.B. SARANGI

Growing in stature: Rinku, left, will have the additional responsibility of being the vice-captain. PTI

Big blow: Dayal, who was retained by RCB for ₹5 crore, will have to sit out the high-profile competition. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Dayal won't play for RCB in IPL 2026: Bobat

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) pacer Yash Dayal will not be a part of the side for IPL 2026, RCB director of cricket Mo Bobat said here on Tuesday.

Bobat added that Dayal, who faces legal issues, remains under contract with RCB, and has the support of the franchise as he "goes through his personal situation".

"Yash will not be joining up with the squad. He is going through a personal situation currently. We've been very supportive of Yash to date. We wanted to retain him, and he remains under contract and will continue, in the short term, foreseeable (future) to remain under contract. It has been decided that it is not in his best interest, or the franchise's best interest, for him to join up with us at this point," Bobat said in a press conference.

"He obviously retains our support, he remains under contract, and we'll continue to speak to him as he goes through his personal situation," Bobat said.

Dayal's last competitive match was the IPL 2025 final, after which RCB retained him for ₹5 crore.

RCB will continue to wait on fast bowler Josh Hazlewood to regain full fitness. Bobat did not reveal a timeline on Hazlewood's expected return. "Josh is currently working through a 'return-to-play' programme in Australia. We are liaising very closely with both Josh and Cricket Australia. As soon as he gets to a point where Cricket Australia is happy, he'll come over," Bobat said.

Bobat was non-committal on where all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer – a high-profile ₹7 crore signing at the auction – can be slotted in the XI.

"We haven't selected a team for our first game yet. Our main objective at the auction was to strengthen the squad. We want competition for places. Adding a player of Venky's quality, experience and calibre is a no-brainer," Bobat said.

RCB changes ownership in a $1.76 billion deal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

United Spirits Limited (USL), the Indian arm of London-based Diageo, stated on Tuesday that it had fully divested its stake in Royal Challengers Sports Pvt. Ltd. (RCSPL) to a consortium comprising Aditya Birla Group, The *Times of India* Group, Bolt Ventures, and New York-based Blackstone's private equity strategy, BXPE, in an all-cash deal worth $1.76 billion.

According to a regulatory filing made by USL, RCSPL owns and operates the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) franchises in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and Women's Premier League (WPL).

Upon completion of this transaction, the consortium would, through its ownership of RCSPL, acquire the rights to own and operate the IPL and WPL outfits. The RCB teams are the reigning champions in both IPL and WPL.

The women's team won its second trophy early last month while the men's team will begin its title defence this Saturday.

Speculation that RCB would be up for sale has been rife since the stampede outside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4, 2025, that killed 11 people during the franchise's title-winning celebrations. Tuesday's announcement concludes the strategic review of RCSPL that was initiated by USL last November.

The transaction is subject to satisfactory completion of customary closing conditions and legal, regulatory and other approvals, including from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Competition Commission of India.

Praveen Someshwar, MD & CEO, USL, said: "RCB has grown into the most prominent and commercially successful franchise in the IPL and WPL. It has built a globally recognised brand and a passionate fan base.

"We are excited for the future of RCB under the stewardship of the new owner. As sports enters a new phase of growth in India and globally, we believe this is in the best interest of the franchise and our stakeholders," Someshwar added.

"We are proud to become custodians of RCB and grateful to USL and Diageo for the franchise they have built. RCB's championship-winning culture, its deep connection to Bengaluru, and one of the most passionate fan bases in world sport make this an extraordinary opportunity," stated the acquiring consortium.

Somani-led consortium wins bid to own Royals

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

A consortium led by US-based entrepreneur Kal Somani has won the bid to acquire the Rajasthan Royals franchise in the IPL.

The consortium, which was competing against a Birla Group-backed bid and the *Times of India* group, is understood to have submitted an offer of approximately $1.63 billion. The change in ownership is expected to come into effect from June.

Somani, who is already an investor in RR, has business interests spanning edtech, data privacy, artificial intelligence governance and sports technology. He is the founder of companies including IntraEdge, Truyo, Truyo.AI and Academian.

The consortium is also backed by Rob Walton of the Walmart family and the Hamp family, which holds majority ownership of the Detroit Lions. Sheila Ford Hamp, who belongs to the Ford family, is also associated with the group.

Meanwhile, the IPL captains' meeting with the BCCI will be held here on Wednesday. Among the points to be discussed are the Impact Player rule, code of conduct, the two bouncers per over rule, checks for the size of bats, replacement of the ball when it is lost or unfit for play, retired out calls, and use of saliva.

Baranica vaults to a new mark

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

Tamil Nadu's Baranica Elangovan went past Rosy Meena Paulraj's National record with a mark of 4.22m to win the women's pole vault title on the opening day of the inaugural National Indoor athletics championships at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday.

Baranica, who surpassed Rosy's 2022 mark of 4.21m, was delighted with her effort. "It's a good day for me, I entered my name in the record books. I had been trying hard to cross 4.20m but today turned out to be my lucky day," said the 29-year-old, who went for 4.25m but could not achieve it.

Local favourite Sarun Payasingh, a footballer-turned athlete, upset Praveen Chithravel to take the men's long jump crown with a personal best of 7.80m, achieved in his second attempt. Chithravel was second with 7.78m, also recorded in his second attempt, following a keen contest with Sarun.

Soaring: Baranica came up with a 4.22m effort. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Sarun. BISWARANJAN ROUT

The results (winners only): Men: 800m: Mohammed Afsal (IAF) 1:47.86; **3000m**: Shivaji Parashuram (Rel) 8:09.88; **60m hurdles:** Krishik M. (Kar) 7.71; **long jump:** Sarun Payasingh (Odi) 7.80m; **shot put**: Ravi Kumar (BSF) 17.17m. **U-20: 800m:** Lokesh Magendhiran (TN) 1:53.92; **shot put:** Omkar Prasad Nanda (Odi) 17.77m. **Women: 3000m:** Priyanka C. (Kar) 9:42.05; **shot put:** Rekha (NCOE, Patiala) 15.63m; **pole vault:** Baranica Elangovan (TN) 4.22m; **long jump:** Anamika K.A. (JSW) 6.05m. **U-20: Shot put:** Dona Maria (Ker) 13.35m.

INBRIEF

Anushka gets a call-up for South Africa T20I series

Anushka Sharma on Tuesday received her maiden India call-up for the five-match away T20I series against South Africa, beginning April 17. The 22-year-old was a member of the India-A squad that won the Rising Stars Asia Cup crown in Bangkok. From the contingent that featured in the 2-1 win over Australia, Sneh Rana, Amanjot Kaur, G. Kamalini and Vaishnavi Sharma didn't find a place. Medium-pacer Kashvee Gautam, who has played Test and One-Day Internationals for India, has been included in the squad led by Harmanpreet Kaur. The series is part of India's preparation for the T20 World Cup in the UK in June-July.

The squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Capt.), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh, Kranti Gaud, Shree Charani, Shreyanka Patil, Kashvee Gautam, Bharti Fulmali, Uma Chetry and Anushka Sharma.

Primrose Hockey Club registers narrow win

Primrose Hockey Club defeated Dharwad District Hockey Association 2-1 in the KSHA B-division hockey league in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

BTM Layout edges out Padmanabha Nagar

BTM Layout edged out Padmanabha Nagar 3-2 in the KSFA-Vaishnavi Chief Minister Cup football tournament here on Tuesday. In the day's other match, Gandhinagar overcame Malleswaram 5-2.

LIVE TELECAST

New Zealand vs South Africa: 5th T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 11.45 a.m.

Football: European Qualifiers, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 3.30 p.m.

IFL: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 4 & 6.30 p.m.

Bhatia hopes to tame a tough course

The 24-year-old is flying high having emerged champion in the marquee Arnold Palmer Invitational in a playoff earlier this month

INDIAN OPEN

Uthra Ganesan
GURUGRAM

The Hero Indian Open golf has had its share of big names turning up over the years and the excitement around Akshay Bhatia would clearly be up there with the best. The 24-year-old Indian-origin American is on his first visit to the country and will be the top draw on the course, evident from the fact that he had an entire pre-event press conference to himself on Tuesday.

And he did not disappoint, making all the right noises, appreciating the course and looking forward to the competition. "This was supposed to happen in 2020 but then Covid happened. But happy to be here for the first time. The course looks very difficult from what I've seen. I just really look forward to being here and exploring some of Delhi," Bhatia said at the interaction that started almost an hour late.

Considered one of the biggest upcoming talents on the PGA Tour since turning professional at the age of 19 in 2019, Bhatia already has three Tour titles under his belt including the marquee Arnold Palmer Invitational earlier this month – all of them in playoffs.

"I think I just apply pressure consistently. Part of it is luck and part of it is the pressure I was able to put on each of those players," Bhatia laughed on handling crunch situations.

Star attraction: Bhatia already has three PGA Tour titles under his belt. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He admitted there would be more of those over the weekend. "I've watched a bunch of highlights of this event – how hard the course is, 17 being a signature hole and then obviously walking by 18 today, how far uphill it looks from the green up to the fairway. You have to be very strategic and I think it's great," he agreed.

Speaking about his experience of competing in the Augusta Masters for the third time next month – having made the cut both in 2024 and 2025 – Bhatia admitted it was a test of patience.

Tough challenge

"Every hole is tough. Five is historically one of the hardest, 12 is very tricky. And 18 is a very tough hole. There are not many holes where you can lollygag down the fairway, it tests your patience," added Bhatia.

Jamil names 23-member squad for Hong Kong clash

ANI
NEW DELHI

The Indian senior men's national football team head coach Khalid Jamil has named a 23-member squad for the last match of the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifiers final round against Hong Kong, to be held on March 31. The Blue Tigers began their camp in Kochi on Tuesday.

With India already ruled out of qualification for the Asian Cup, the match serves as preparation for the future.

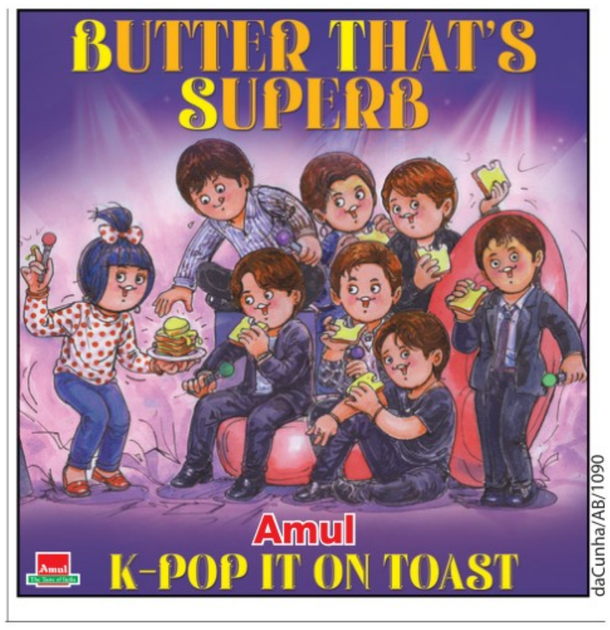
"We have a lot of promising players coming through, who are currently with the under-20 and u-23 national teams, playing in the SAFF u-20 Championship in the Maldives, and the u-23 tri-nation in Arunachal Pradesh. Our assistant coach Mahesh, is himself leading the u-20s, which will help us familiarise them with the system we have in place here with the senior team," Jamil said.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Albino Gomes, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Vishal Kaith.

Defenders: Abhishek Singh Tekcham, Akash Mishra, Anwar Ali, Bijoy Varghese, Nikhil Poojary, Rahul Bheke, Roshan Naorem, Sandesh Jhingan.

Midfielders: Ashique Kuruniyan, Danish Farooq, Jeakson Singh, Lalengmawia Ralte, Sahal Abdul Samad.

Forwards: Edmund Lalrindika, Farukh Choudhary, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Liston Colaco, Manvir Singh, Rahim Ali and Ryan Williams.



Cherie Chevalier obliges

HYDERABAD: Trainer K.S.V. Prasad Raju's ward Cherie Chevalier, ridden by Neeraj Rawal, won the Telangana Plate, the main event of Tuesday's (Mar. 24) races. The winner is owned by Mrs. Smita Bajoria, Mr. Seshadri Reddy Pochana, Mr. Bollineni Krishnaiah, Mr. Teegala Vijender Reddy, Mr. Teegala Sumant Reddy and Mr. Pochana Arjun Reddy.

1. BUSINESS TYCOON PLATE (1,400M): CATCHME IF YOU CAN (Antony Raj S) 1, Sadiya (P. Ajeeth K) 2, Smart Boy (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Sucker Punch (Rafique Sk.) 4. Not run: Take A Breath. 3-1/4, 4-1/4 and 2-1/4. 1m, 29.07s. ₹16 (w), 15, 17 and 10 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 32, FP: 54, Q: 36, Tanala: 154. Favourite: Catchme If You Can. Owners: Col. M.P. Singh & Mr. Shailendra Singh. Trainer: Magan Singh.

2. RISING STAR PLATE (1,200M): THE LAST AVTAR (Akshay Kumar) 1, Advait (Antony Raj) 2, Excalibur (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and She's A Bomb (H.M. Akshay) 4. 2, 2-3/4 and 1. 1m, 13.74s. ₹69 (w), 22, 12 and 20 (p). SHP: 47, THP: 66, FP: 145, Q: 48, Tanala: 374. Favourite: Advait. Owner: Mr. Hari Sharan Devgan. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

3. BRAVE HUNTER PLATE (1,200M): AYUSHMAN (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Emerald Touch (Ashad Asbar) 2, Greif (Akshay K) 3 and Turiya (Antony Raj) 4. 1/2, 1/2 and 3-1/2. 1m, 13.07s. ₹53 (w), 10, 15 and 18 (p). SHP: 19, THP: 125, FP: 272, Q: 238, Tanala: 486. Favourite: Greif. Owners: Mr. Suchit Jayraj Shah, The Estate of Late Mr. Rajesh Sanghani & Mr. Mirza Ayub Baig. Trainer: D. Netto.

4. MEDCHAL PLATE (1,200M): ARTHISHA (Akshay Kumar) 1, Konaseema (Santosh Raj) 2, Onslaught (Ashad Asbar) 3 and December Caspian (Md. Ekram) 4. 2-1/2, 3-1/2 and 2-3/4. 1m, 13.71s. ₹32 (w), 14, 16 and 17 (p). SHP: 26, THP: 61, FP: 82, Q: 37, Tanala: 265. Favourite: Konaseema. Owner: Mr. Prashant Datta Kankonkar. Trainer: Magan Singh.

5. KHAMMAM PLATE (1,800M): ANDRE (Antony Raj S) 1, Corte Madera (Akshay K) 2, Pride Aside (B. Nikhil) 3 and China Town (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 3-3/4, 1 and 2. 1m, 54.20s. ₹18 (w), 13, 13 and 14 (p). SHP: 21, THP: 29, FP: 36, Q: 15, Tanala: 64. Favourite: Corte Madera. Owners: Mrs. Anasuya Gupta & Mr. Abhiroop Gupta rep. A.G. Bloodstock LLP, Miss. Ameeta Mehra, Mr. Atul Singh & Mr. Shantanu Sharma. Trainer: Bharath Singh.

6. TELANGANA PLATE (1,600M): CHERIE CHEVALIER (Neeraj Rawal) 1, Reigning Beauty (Md. Ismail) 2, N R I Superpower (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Truth (I. Chisty) 4. 3-1/4, 1 and 2. 1m, 39.72s. ₹14 (w), 12, 16 and 10 (p). SHP: 113, THP: 62, FP: 164, Q: 112, Tanala: 437. Favourite: Cherie Chevalier. Owners: Mrs. Smita Bajoria, Mr. Seshadri Reddy Pochana, Mr. Bollineni Krishnaiah, Mr. Teegala Vijender Reddy, Mr. Teegala Sumant Reddy & Mr. Pochana Arjun Reddy. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

7. MALVADO PLATE (1,100M): NOORIAN (Akshay Kumar) 1, Dhanadeepa (Antony Raj) 2, Iconic Star (Rafique Sk.) 3 and Niloufer The Great (G. Naresh) 4. 2, 1/2 and 3-3/4. 1m, 08.42s, ₹38 (w), 23, 10 and 96 (p). SHP: 48, THP: 371, FP: 75, Q: 43, Tanala: 2,307. Favourite: Danadeepa. Owners: Mr. Sardar Jivtesh Singh & Mr. Chukkala Ashok. Trainer: S.S.F. Hassan.

Jackpot: 70%:₹2,486 (178 tkts.) & 30%: 298 (636); mini jackpot: 3,456 (23); Treble: (i) 4,298 (6), (ii) 125 (332).

SNAPSHOTS

Seven Indian archers in pre-quarterfinals

BANGKOK: All the four Indian compound male archers – Rajat Chauhan, Rishabh Yadav, Uday Kamboj and Prathamesh Jawkar – and three recurve women archers – Ruma Biswas, Kirti and Ridhi Phor – entered the pre-quarterfinals stage of the Asia Cup Stage-1 archery championships here on Tuesday.

In the qualification round, the Indians claimed the top four spots in the compound men rankings with 700-plus scores. Ruma was the best among the recurve Indian women arcchers.

The results: Qualification round: Recurve: Women: Ruma Biswas (second, 650), Kirti (10th, 638), Ridhi Phor (17th, 627), Anshika Kumari (30th, 609). **Compound: Men:** Rajat Chauhan (first, 712), Rishabh Yadav (second, 708), Uday Kamboj (third, 706), Prathamesh Jawkar (fourth, 703).

Woods to return to action in TGL

LOS ANGELES: Tiger Woods will make a tentative return to competitive action when he plays in the TGL Golf League, weeks after the 15-time Major champion said that the Masters in April was not "off the table".

The 50-year-old underwent disc replacement surgery in October, the latest in a series of operations that have sidelined him from top-level competition since the 2024.

Feeding the beast: a lesson in the spirit of the times

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Sunil Gavaskar is not a bigot. Of that I am fairly certain, even granting that people can change and that as you grow older you tend to drift towards the more conservative end of the political spectrum.

Without quite being buddy-buddy, we have known each other for four decades now. We have had our good days – on tours especially, where we were both simply 'writers', and he was encouraging of youngsters. And bad days, when he has reacted to what I said. Recently, he was so upset about something in this column that he sent a letter which was carried in full.

But through all of this, the conviction that he is one of the all-time greats of the game has never faltered. He is an intelligent man, often compared by teammates to a chess grandmaster for his ability to think a dozen steps ahead of a move.

Twisted view

Which is why his recent pronouncement on a Pakistani player being selected to play in The Hundred in England is so twisted.

He has accused Sunrisers Hyderabad, owners of Sunrisers Leeds in England of contributing to the Indian casualties by funding weapons for Pakistan through the money Abrar Ahmed, a leg-spin bowler, will pay in tax. This is a bit like arguing that anybody who takes Shubman Gill's wicket on the first day of a Test match is ruining cricket's economy because fans might stay away on the second day.

Sunrisers Hyderabad signed up Abrar for $254,000 in the London auction.

"Although belated, the realisation that the fees that they pay to a Pakistani player, who then pays income tax to his government, which buys arms and weapons, indirectly contributes to the deaths of Indian soldiers and civilians, is making Indian entities refrain from even considering having Pakistani artistes and sportspersons," Gavaskar wrote.

Gavaskar, who turns 77 this year, seems to be plugging into the spirit of the times. This is who we are in the new world order where India's version of Donald Trump's MAGA are the arbiters of what is good, what is nationalism and how patriotism is a zero sum game where loving your country means hating others. And you have to feed the beast if you are a public figure.

I hold no candle for Pakistan (although after this appears, trolls will suggest I move there). They are a struggling economy which exports terror. Politicians need India as the 'other' to spew venom at for their own ends. It takes the focus away from their own misdeeds and the sufferings of their people. It is a time-tested strategy used by other countries too. Yet to conclude that a cricketer's salary contributes to terrorism is convoluted.

Following the Mumbai attacks in 2008, Pakistani players have been kept out of the IPL. There was no official order from the Board of Control for Cricket in India. Such things are done informally, with a nudge and a wink, the BCCI's most effective weapons. Franchises understand what is good for them, and are unwilling to invite problems by selecting Pakistani players in India. The trouble – nudge,nudge, wink, wink – is not worth it.

But there is something disturbing about a national figure, a hero to millions mouthing the kind of stuff that is the preserve of social media trolls. If we see parts of ourselves reflected in our heroes, then this is not a wholesome reflection.

Less tolerant

Or perhaps, unknowingly, gradually, we as a people are becoming less tolerant, more likely to weaponise anything from a handshake to a selection abroad to buttress our self-image. The genuinely powerful do not need to constantly reference their power. Cricket is often called upon to clean the mess politicians make, or indeed endorse their views.

Gavaskar is entitled to his opinion, of course. Using his logic, you can make a case for keeping Indian players out of the IPL too, because the taxes they pay should go into building proper roads. But our roads are so full of potholes that you can say the IPL is leading to corruption (Note to trolls: This is a joke).

Once it was an article of faith that the best way to grab attention was to write against the prevailing ideas. Today the opposite seems true. You bow to the zeitgeist, and endorse the prevailing 'wisdom'.

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department, Special Division, Hunsur
Short Term Tender Notification
(Through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)
IFT No: 24/2025-26 **Date: 20.03.2026**

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the undersigned has invited itemised tender for 04-works related to Hunsur Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents" KW-1, KW-2 & KW-4 from the eligible registered contactors under PWD through KPPP Portal. Maximum amount put to tender Rs.3833.61 lakhs and Minimum amount put to tender Rs.13.09 lakhs, Maximum EMD amount of Rs.38,34,000/- and Minimum EMD amount of Rs.32,725/- Tender documents downloaded from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website on Dt: 20.03.2026 and Last date for submission of filled tender documents is, works Sl.no 1 & 2 Dt: 27.03.2026 and Sl.no 3 & 4 Dt: 04.04.2026 Period for completion of works (including monsoon) Maximum 18-Months & Minimun 2-Months For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours.

Note: 1) The employer reserves the rights to Reject or Accept any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons. **2)** Tender extension/Addendum/Corrigendum etc, will be notified only in KPP Portal and will not be published in news papers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Special Division, Hunsur

DIPR/DDMYS/1866/KSMCA/1058/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.
No. EE/PWD/HSN/JE-2/2025-26/ DATED: 23.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 48/2025-26, Dated: 23.03.2026

Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-3 and KW-4 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD Tenders(2nd Call) invited through E-Procurement for 02 Works in Hassan division The minimum amount put to tender is Rs.69.70 lakhs and maximum amount put to tender is Rs.155.35 lakhs.; Last date of Receipt of tender is 06.04.2026 till 4.00 P.M. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.

ಖಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1226/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Office of the Assistant Director, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department Nehru Stadium, Shivamogga
Tel: 08182-223328 E-mail: adyssshimoga@gmail.com
No.AD/YESD/S/Staff Outsourcing/E-Tender/2025-26 Date:23-03-2026

Tender Notice

It has been decided to procure staff services on an outsourcing basis for the District and Taluk Stadiums and Sports Schools managed by the Youth Empowerment and Sports Department. Accordingly, there is a requirement for staff for a period of one year on an outsourcing basis. The e-tender has been published on the e-procurement portal on 23-03-2026, and the last date for submission of tenders is 22-04-2026. Tender forms and other terms and conditions in this regard can be obtained from the portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For further information, the Assistant Director, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, Nehru Stadium, Shivamogga, may be contacted at telephone number: 9900280416.

Sd/- Assistant Director Youth Empowerment and Sports Department Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/137/03/2075

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ.5, ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ. ಫೋ: 08192–264669
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eebceddvg@yahoo.co.in

ಸಂ:ಕಾಇಂ/ಕನೀನಿನಿ/ಭನಾವಿ.5/ದಾ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ.4/4701 ಭದ್ರಾ/2025–26/2646
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.03.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:– **No: No: EE/ KNNL/ BCD-5/DVG/PB4/4701ಭದ್ರಾ/2025-26/2645 Dt:23.03.2026**

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ರವರು, ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 4701 ಭದ್ರಾ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ, KW-2, KW-3 ಮತ್ತು KW-4 ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಏಕ/ದ್ವೀ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ 42.17 ರಿಂದ 422.54 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ ದಿನಾಂಕ:24.03.2026 ರಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.04.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.04.2026 ರಂದು 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ದಿ: 01.04.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೆರವೇರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.04.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.10 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ, ಅಂಗಿಕರೀಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಥವಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/840/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಕನೀನಿನಿ ನಂ.5 ಭದ್ರಾ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

VIJAYANAGARA SRI KRISHNADEVARAYA UNIVERSITY, BALLARI
Jnanasagara Campus, Vinayakanagara , Cantonment, Ballari-583105,
NO. VSKUB/CEMARF/KMERC/Tender/2025-26/3783
Date:18 -03-2026

Brief Tender Notification
(Through e-procurement only) Call-3

Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University invites Tender Call 3 from eligible Tenderers for Sl.No:01) Supply and Installation of Equipments to Center of Excellence for Multidisciplinary Advanced Research Facility (CEMARF) for Upgradation of Sri Krishnadevaraya University , Ballari under CEPMIZ plan of K.M.E.R.C.Works Call 3 : **Rs. 2,36,08,600/-** (including GST). The detail notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by login on the website kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The other details can be collected from the undersigned.

Sd/- Registrar, Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University Ballari-583105.

DIPR/Ballari/1177/KSMCA/2025-26